



CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NEWS

**KEYS**

HILDENBOROUGH

**Feb**

**2025**



**CANDLEMAS DAY**

**2 FEBRUARY**

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# From the Church



On the 2<sup>nd</sup> February, The Church celebrates Candlemas; a Christian festival.

Candlemas is traditionally the 40th day of (and the conclusion of) Christmas.

In the scripture of Luke 2:22-40, we read about Mary and Joseph bringing the infant Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem, they were following a Jewish law that required every firstborn male to be consecrated to the Lord. At the Temple, they encountered Simeon, a devout man who had been promised by God that he would see the Messiah before he died. Simeon's joyous words upon seeing Jesus, are known as the Nunc Dimittis or the Song of Simeon. Its name comes from the Latin phrase "Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine," meaning "Now let your servant depart, Lord."

Simeon proclaimed, "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." (Luke 2:29-32).

This moment with Simeon, highlights the fulfilment of God's promise and the revelation of Jesus as a beacon of light, hope and salvation for all. Simeon understood that he was seeing with his own eyes the living God, in the form of a baby called Jesus. He had

waited his whole life for this moment. After witnessing Jesus being presented at the temple, "He could now truly go in peace". The Church lights candles in this period as a reminder of that moment. God came in human form to bring light and hope to the darkness of the world. We use candles as a reminder of the words Jesus used to identify Himself as the light of the world. Candlemas is also an invitation for us to embrace Jesus to be a light in our own lives. Candlemas offers us an opportunity for spiritual renewal. To refocus on the work and life of Jesus and as His followers, to be led by Jesus to serve those we meet in the world. When people encounter Jesus in their hearts and lives, they often describe a sense of incredible peace. The peace Jesus offers us is not of this world but from Him. It means no matter what we face, we have Jesus as a comfort and guide giving us an inner peace. Such is the gift of peace Jesus gives to those who know Him.

I wonder if you have peace?

Maybe you would like to experience the peace that Jesus offers. It's simple really, all you have to do is ask Him. These words might help. "Lord please send me your peace, make yourself known to me in my heart." From experience when people say that kind of prayer, they find their prayers are answered.

We would love to invite you to join us for any of our services to hear more about Jesus.

*Tim*

# ST JOHN'S CHURCH - Directory

**Tel: 01732 833 596**

**Website: [www.stjohnshildenborough.co.uk](http://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/>)



# Warm Hub Wednesdays 12pm - 2pm



**Free Homemade Soup, bread roll &  
dessert**

**Free Tea & Coffee**

All Welcome

*Church Centre  
Foxbush  
Hildenborough*



## **From the Parish records**

June Gallacher – Burial 09/10/2024

Viscountess Gillian Brentford –  
Burial 21/11/2024

Thomas Brockman – Burial of ashes  
13/11/2024

Christine Ledger – Burial of ashes  
17/11/2024

Dudley Hurrell – Burial of ashes  
05/12/2024

Margot – Baptism 24/11/2024

India – Baptism 03/11/2024

Hilary Louise Drayson Maile –  
Funeral (Church service only)  
07/11/2024

Colmar Lewis – Burial of ashes  
07/11/2024



# Forget-me-not Cafés

*Companionship over a cuppa*



stop our patrons arriving en masse and having a good time.

We welcomed Annalene Beechey who is a professional singer and has appeared in numerous musicals in the West End including the King and I, Wicked, and Phantom of the Opera to name just a few. While singing a variety of songs from Oklahoma, Calamity Jane, South Pacific and more Annalene told us stories and anecdotes including that when she toured in the King and I as Anna, her dress for the song “Shall we Dance” weighed four stone and to enable the dress to flow and fall back into the correct position the hem was weighted with heavy beads.

It was a cold and icy day to start the year with our first café, but it didn't

Annalene's final song was from the Sound of Music, the Lonely Goatherd, but before singing it through she asked us all to practise our yodelling which was undertaken in full voice by many! As usual the fun morning was accompanied by tea, coffee and cake and all the ladies went home with a colourful posy of flowers.



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](mailto:forgetmenot.sadfc@gmail.com) or 07946 534 476.

***Julie Rhodes***

# The Study Sanctuary at St John's



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

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

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

No need to book, just turn up.  
For more information email ; [lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk](mailto:lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk)

## **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 first check that you live within the charity's geographical area and, if you do, apply for assistance. Your enquiry will be treated in strict confidence.

Please contact:

LUC chairman Brian Ball at [brianball358@btinternet.com](mailto:brianball358@btinternet.com) or **07532 205 037**

or the clerk, Jane Clay on [clerkLUC@gmail.com](mailto: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**





HIVE  
Hildenborough Village  
**The Hive  
Youth Group**

For school year  
6-13  
£1 for this  
session

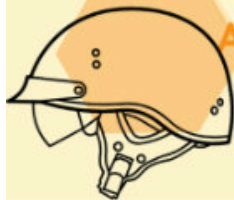
Sunday 9th February

Just one this month due to the half term  
break.

A visit from a Scooter instructor to teach  
Scooter tricks and skills

All youth leaders hold a valid DBS

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



**CAFÉ THEO**



**After School Youth Café**

For school years 6-13.

Open 1st and 3rd Friday in term time  
4-5:30pm. Just 7th February this month.  
St John's Church Centre, Hildenborough.

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

- Games tables
- Board Games
- Consoles
- Crafts



## THE FILLING STATION

West Weald

**Weds 26th Feb**  
**7:30 for 8pm - 9:30pm**



Fordcombe Village Hall, Fordcombe,  
Kent, TN3 0RY  
Every 4th Wednesday (not July, Aug, Dec)

Join us in Feb for West Weald Filling Station. Worship, led by Cabin Worship. and band, prayer and hospitality

### Future dates

26 Mar • 23 April

### Main speaker Jasper Warwood

Jasper is a committed Christian who is passionate to grow the Kingdom of God. He is Head boy at Bennett and starting up an Alpha.

He has spoken in assemblies, seen other pupils healed and he is ready to share his faith with anyone. Jasper is an example of the way in which God is equipping young people to make a real difference in this country. Come to find out how we can support or join in. Bring some young people if you can.



More info at...

[www.thefillingstation.org.uk/station/west-weald](http://www.thefillingstation.org.uk/station/west-weald)



## Volunteer interview number 4

This month sees a return to Keys Magazine for David Haugh. He was my predecessor as editor. He has fulfilled many voluntary functions over the years.

If you would like to feature in the magazine, please get in touch with me at [editor@keysmagazine.co.uk](mailto:editor@keysmagazine.co.uk). My aim is to celebrate those that give up their time to make our community better. I hope this will inspire more people to get involved, as we have a wide variety of organisations in our village.

*Rob Mansfield*

### Meet the volunteer – David Haugh Chair of the Village Hall

Hi, I'm David Haugh. I've been in the village since 1975, first in Hilden Park Road then 40+ years in Brookmead. I live alone after my partner passed away.



Since 2017 in my volunteer role is Chair of the Village Hall, I oversee the hall activities, bookings, maintenance and problems. At the moment I'm also acting as treasurer until we find a new volunteer. The hall is well used and is a key part of village activities. This takes me around about 4-5 hours per week on average.

It's taught me people skills in dealing with groups of individuals who often have different views and opinions.

The best bit is resolving problems satisfactorily so that activities can

continue, and the worst bit is having to deal with large outside companies and organisations that in reality offer poor customer service.

If you'd like to learn more and maybe try your hand at volunteering, please get in touch by email ([haughdc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:haughdc@yahoo.co.uk)) or phone 01732 832 869.

Something you may not know about me is that I'm a self-taught DIYer due to limited finances in earlier life. I still aim not to pay others for household jobs and maintenance that I can do myself.

*David Haugh*



# HILDENBOROUGH



## FARMERS' MARKET



Brrrr! It's a bit chilly and icy as I look out at my frosty garden. It all looks rather beautiful with the sun shining through the window, but I hope you are all keeping warm.

Throughout the year the Market tries to support charitable causes and 2024 was no exception. For those who are regular customers you will have seen our Hospice in the Weald ladies, The Crafty Hospice Gardener, who make a variety of items from lavender bags, aprons, purses and much more with all the proceeds going to our local Hospice.

We also held a Market concentrating on breast cancer by supporting Turning Tonbridge Pink. The Market was decorated in pink plus many of our volunteers and customers searched their wardrobes to find a pink jumper or shirt. Babons, a cancer charity who gives support to the Tonbridge community had a stall telling our customers about their work. A raffle was held with some prizes donated by our stallholders and customers; this raised over £200 and was given to Breast Cancer Now.

One of our dedicated volunteers raises money for a different charity each year. You may have seen Dot with her knitted toys, Christmas decorations, Easter egg chicks and beautiful cardigans. In 2024 Dot raised an incredible £500 for the British Heart Foundation and this year her chosen charity is the local Tonbridge Dementia Friendly Community.

Throughout 2025 other charitable events will be held and we look forward to seeing you as we continue to support our local community.

Don't forget 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!



The café is always open during the Market hours 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](mailto: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](https://www.facebook.com/HildenboroughFarmersMarket)

Instagram – [hildenboroughfarmersmarket](https://www.instagram.com/hildenboroughfarmersmarket)

## FARMERS MARKET RECIPE

### A Bee-autiful Honey Cake

#### Ingredients

- 170g/6oz clear honey
- 140g/5oz butter
- 85g/3oz light muscovado sugar
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 200g/7oz self raising flour, sieved
- water

#### For the icing

- 55g/2oz icing sugar
- 1 tbsp clear honey
- hot water

#### Method

1. Preheat oven to 180°C/350F/Gas 3 and butter and line the bottom of a 7in/18cm cake tin.
2. Measure the honey, butter and sugar into a large pan. Add a tablespoon of water and heat gently until melted.
3. Remove from the heat and mix in the eggs and flour.
4. Spoon into the cake tin and bake for 40-45 minutes until the cake is springy to the touch and shrinking slightly from the sides of the tin.
5. Cool slightly in the tin before turning out onto a wire rack.
6. While the cake is still warm, make the icing by mixing the sugar and honey together with 2-3 teaspoons of hot water. Trickle over the cake in whatever design takes your fancy.

## Hildenborough Library

*“Farewell, and may the blessing of Elves and Men and all Free Folk go with you. May the stars shine upon your faces!”*

— J.R.R. Tolkien, The Fellowship of the Ring

My time at Hildenborough library is at an end. This has been a very difficult decision as I have loved being part of the Hildenborough community and getting to know you all. I just wanted to say a big thank you to all the wonderful customers who have made working in the library such a pleasure. I am going to miss you all so very much.



# Kent Libraries

David (my hubby) and I will be travelling the UK in a caravan with our three very naughty dogs for a year. We plan on exploring our beautiful landscape, visiting places off the beaten track and generally avoiding other dog walkers because our dogs are so unsociable. We plan to work on that as we go! I will hopefully be logging our journey on Facebook and writing a travel blog so please ask in the library for information, if you are interested.

Best wishes to you all.

**Jacie x**

# *What's on in and around the village?*

## **Hildenborough Road Races – Monday May 5th**

In 1985 "The Village Fun Run" started the ball rolling for an annual event which starts at the Recreation Ground and takes runners from the Village and further afield round the lovely lanes of our home patch. After a couple of years the event was renamed, as above and, in time, we were able to offer three adult races plus children's races in the Rec' which has attracted about 200 children in the last two years.



We will be celebrating 40 years this year but have not yet decided how to do so. Believe me, the celebration will be special!

Come and enjoy the day and, if you cannot run, how about helping us to ensure that the day runs like a well-oiled machine? Any help will be much appreciated. Please contact [Hildenroadrace@gmail.com](mailto:Hildenroadrace@gmail.com)

*Pat Davies*

## **HILDENBOROUGH SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB**

**Is a small group of people who meet on Tuesday afternoons all year.**

Due to ill health and relocation new players are urgently needed

**Play is from 1.45 pm - 4.30 pm**

**with tea, biscuits and chat halfway**

**TUITION IS GIVEN AND BOWLS SUPPLIED**

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!



## **Three New Year Phrases that can go in the bin (and What to Say Instead)**

Ah, the new year! A time when we're bombarded with phrases designed to make us feel inspired—or, let's be honest, slightly inadequate. Here's a quick guide to the three we love to loathe and what you might say instead (with a touch of wit, of course).

### **"New Year, New You"**

This phrase is the perennial cheerleader for reinvention, but does it ever feel like it's more of a threat than a promise? The truth is, the "old you" did survive a global pandemic and all, so let's show some respect. Let's face it, our personalities and habits aren't exactly like a web browser with a "reset" button (though I know a few relatives I wish this worked on!). Instead, we could say: "New Year, Still Here." It might not sound like a Nike ad, but at least it doesn't make you want to roll your eyes at the mirror every January.

### **"No Pain, No Gain"**

While this phrase might look great chiselled on a gym wall, it could probably use a reality check. Not everyone thrives on the idea that agony equates to achievement. While getting outside your comfort zone sometimes is good for creating change, heading straight into pain is a recipe for failure or injury. Perhaps consider: "Gain Without the Strain" or the slightly more honest "Some Pain is Just Stupid." Remember, a marathon of your favourite show counts as endurance training, right?

### **"Detox Diets/Supplements"**

It's a new year, so naturally, it's time to spend two weeks gloriously hangry on celery juice and charcoal pills... or maybe not. Let's replace "Detox and Repent" with "Let's Talk About Small, Sustainable Changes First." Because really, if your liver could talk, it would probably tell you it's doing just fine without the £50 herbal rescue treatment.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, let us not be tempted by the siren songs of trendy phrases that promise rapid transformation at the beginning of the year. Embrace the idea that progress is often quiet, sometimes slow, and always deeply personal. After all, steady improvement is like a good British pastime—it may not be loud, but it's certainly rewarding.

*Justin Jones*

Hildenborough Outdoor Fitness based at the Recreation Ground on Riding Lane. Justin can be contacted on WhatsApp 07429 874 025

# T.M.B.C. News

## It's Coming!

It's probably, definitely coming, in the very near, next few years. Devolution.

We are told, devolution means that decision making moves closer to the citizen and is more democratic. Devolution is not new.

There have been different forms of devolution in the UK for decades and it is common in other parts of the world. The current form of devolution in the UK only goes back to the late 1990s. The 2027 Borough Council elections are unlikely to be held, with a remote possibility that if matters are not in place they are deferred by 1 or 2 years; already there is talk of this year's KCC elections in May not going ahead and the KC Councillors having their term of office extended.

Devolution will bring together a group of Borough Councils, the very likely disbandment of KCC, along with the Police and Crime Commissioner, merging the Borough Councils brings about their disbandment as well.

But which Councils, for example, would TMBC want to merge with? Let's say, if TMBC merged with Maidstone, would Tunbridge Wells want to merge with TMBC? These new merged Councils, now Unitary Authorities would take over the functions of the local Borough Council and KCC. I wonder how highways are administered at the point where the highway leaves the Boundary of the new Authority.

Parish Councils are likely to remain unchanged, but they could get more responsibility and therefore require funding (Oh yes, it is going to cost) (and the other problem is loss of localism. "I want to report a problem in Hildenborough, Oh yes, Hildenborough, where's that then?") I can see it coming.

Currently TMBC give permission for housing developments, KCC are responsible for Highways infrastructure etc. TMBC collect household refuse, KCC must dispose of it. KCC own the highways, TMBC arrange for parking and enforcement of it. KCC are

responsible for social welfare of homeless people, but TMBC must house them, so the new authority will encompass all these activities.

Residents in the new authority, probably called West Kent would also have to elect a Mayor, who would undertake greater responsibility for area wide services; economic development, police, fire, transport etc.

The Devolution White Paper is available on the Gov.UK website for download.

## Local Plan.

Shall we, or shan't we? With the above looming, TMBC is carrying on with the Local Plan, as Government suggests. There is still much to do, but we now have a deadline to submit to the Secretary of State 12/12/2026. Please visit TMBC Website for all matters to do with the plan.

## TPO.

I wrote in December about Tree Preservation Orders. The Council would set the Order up, and that Order could include single trees, groups of trees, areas of woodland or even hedging. The Order however does not stop authorised work to such trees etc. Any specimen(s) covered by a TPO could still require maintenance to prevent damage from falling trunks or branches etc.

## 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**

As you may have seen in the press, the recent government white paper proposes significant reforms to local government, including the potential removal of Kent County Council (KCC) in favour of creating unitary authorities with an elected mayor in North Kent, East Kent and West Kent. This move would see the current two-tier structure of local government in Kent replaced with KCC overseeing county-wide services and district councils like Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council (TMBC) managing more localised services.

If the proposal goes ahead, all local services, including education, transport, social care, and housing, would be managed by a single, unified council instead of being split between KCC and individual district councils. This could lead to a more cohesive approach to local issues, with services better coordinated and potentially more responsive to the needs of communities.

For TMBC, the shift to a unitary authority would mean the loss of its independent decision-making powers in areas such as planning and housing, as these would be centralised. While the changes promise potential cost savings and operational efficiencies, they also raise concerns about the loss of local representation and the centralisation of power in a single authority. KCC have applied to be one of the first County Councils to partake in these changes

which will mean the proposed local elections this year will be postponed.

Whilst I can see huge advantages in terms of efficiencies of scale, streamlined local governance, reduced duplication of services, and more efficient decision-making by consolidating responsibilities under one authority, I am concerned about the loss of local representation. The local Green group is worried about the potential loss of democracy, as elections are postponed with no confirmed rearrangement. Local councillors will become that bit less "local", making decisions about areas they may not know so well as your TMBC councillors do now. There are many unknowns about what could or will happen next; how the role of the Parish council will be changed or indeed whether the mayor will be supported by a cabinet or an assembly more reflective of local voters. TMBC appears to be going ahead with consultation and plans for the Tonbridge Town Centre redevelopment, yet this may not be a prudent course of action as we do not yet know how assets of the proposed new unitary authorities are to be allocated and managed. I guess, once again, it's a question of watch this space!

***Cllr Kath Barton***



## Hildenborough Evening WI

Our January meeting started by welcoming our members and going through some general WI business and updates of forthcoming events and activities. We also spent some time remembering our two members who sadly passed away recently.

We listened to the list of possible resolutions for the coming year and then took a vote.

Following this we all took part in a quiz to test our general knowledge and shared some savoury and sweet treats with a welcome hot beverage.

We finished the evening by all selecting an item from the bran tub, everyone seemed pleased with their gifts.

Jan thanked everyone for their contributions to the food bank.

Our next meeting is ***Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025.***

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 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](mailto:emilysimons24@gmail.com) or via the Hildenborough Litter Pickers Facebook page.

*Emily Simons*

## From our MP: Tom Tugendhat

Many parents are concerned about the additional tax the new Government are asking Private Schools to pay. They are right, this will impact their children's future.

This tax won't just hurt those in Private Schools, it will increase class sizes and put pressure on all schools in our community.

It is estimated that over 37,000 children may now need to have a place at their local state school, putting significant pressure on our Grammar Schools and Secondary Schools in particular.

Our local schools provide wonderful assets including their facilities to the community. This is certainly the case for Tonbridge School, which employs many people in the town. Jobs are under threat. Our area will be hit hard by this change.

The education system in Kent is one that demonstrates a range of secondary schools working effectively alongside one another,

catering for many different needs, and can generate positive results for everyone. In our community, all schools provide that bridge to take young people to the next stage of their lives. That is why education is one of the biggest pull factors to Kent. And that's not just good for schools, it helps support local businesses, allows local communities to develop and connect, and boosts opportunities for all.

I am keen to get thoughts from as many people as possible on this subject. If you are impacted, or concerned about the implications, please do visit [www.tomtugendhat.org/schoolstax](http://www.tomtugendhat.org/schoolstax) where I am asking for views through my website. I am keen to hear from you.

My contact details are as follows:

*E-mail* – [tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk)

*Phone* – 01732 441 563

*Social Media* - @TomTugendhat

**Tom**

## Hildenborough Gardeners' Society

As we start a new year, it is timely to remind villagers of the presence and benefits of our gardening society.

Our store in Riding Lane will open to members on March 1<sup>st</sup>, with the materials needed to transform plain earth into a spectacle of flowers and vegetables.

Before that, on February 18th at 7p.m. we have organised a specialist talk by Simon from How Green Nursery on plant propagation.

This will be free to members and open to others for a minimal fee of £2.

Propagation is essential knowledge to increase existing plant stock without having to start again with new seeds or plants. Annual membership is only £7 – these days barely 2 cups of coffee – and gives access to talks, shows, outings and the store, to say nothing of practical advice from seasoned gardeners'. If you don't already belong to the society, join us and take the benefits.



**David Haugh**

## Problems with introduced plants and animals

Green Parakeets are now well established among our wild animal species. Research finds that Britain's booming parakeet population has grown from numerous accidental and intentional pet releases. Not everyone was annoyed by having the Parrots flying free in their gardens, but others are concerned that the native bird population will suffer from competition for the food put out in feeders for our native garden birds.

There were reports of colonies of these birds from the London parks. I first met these birds while parked in Battersea Park to eat my lunch and understood why the locals were unhappy. The colony was full of noisy squabbling birds.

The vibrantly coloured bird, which is a small to medium-sized species of parrot, has been in Britain for decades, though it was unclear how they were first introduced. To solve the mystery, scientists are using geographic profiling used to track down where they came from. They are analysing patterns of parakeet sightings over the past 50 years.



**Green Parakeets**

species of bird, they have adapted to our climate and found plentiful sources of food and are thriving. The flock that visited my garden recently went straight to the bird table but soon left when they found the feeders empty.

Locally we have suffered problems from non-native plants escaping from gardens and finding the banks of the Medway an ideal habitat. One of these is the Himalayan Balsam that clogs the river and makes access to the riverbank difficult. The flowers are attractive to bees as pollinators. This leads to a difference of opinion between Beekeepers and Fishermen. A more dangerous garden escape locally is the Giant Hogweed. Control is difficult as its sap is corrosive, and precautions need to be taken before cutting the plant down.



**Giant Hogweed**

Tracking down and controlling the non-native plants is far easier than controlling the birds.

*George Gorham*

Non-native species of any plant or animal can sometimes fail to acclimatise but as with this

## **Warnings – Things to watch out for**

Here is a collection of recent warnings issued by Kent Police

**Gift Card Fraud** - Watch out for unsolicited callers claiming you need to purchase gift cards to pay a fine or bill.

Additionally, criminals will contact you impersonating a family member or friend with a time sensitive bill to pay and state how they desperately need your help and could you buy a gift card and send them the number.

**Free Amazon Laptops - I think not** – A Kent resident has reported seeing on Instagram an advert which is advertising a quantity of HP laptops that Amazon are giving away to over 50's. The Adverts states you simply need to pay £2 for delivery via a debit/credit card and that the laptop is free of charge.

The resident rang Amazon who knew nothing about this scheme and confirmed that it is a scam.

Always remember if it appears too good to be true, then it is, as in this instance the criminals are looking to steal your financial data.

**Charity fraud** - Do not let your money end up in a criminal's pocket.

The risk of fraud should not put you off giving to charities but you should be vigilant and make sure you are giving safely.

**Investment Scams** – Criminals will present professional and credible-looking online adverts, send emails, and create websites to advertise fake investment opportunities.

**Ticket Fraud** – Thinking of going to an event over the coming months?

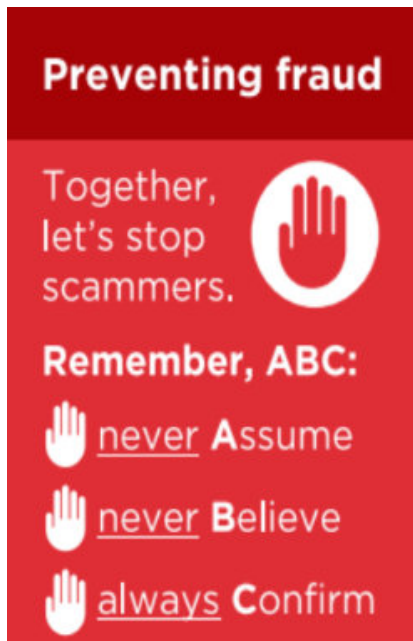
To stay safe, buy only from trusted sources: the venue's box office, official promoters, or reputable ticket sites.

**Fake delivery texts and emails** - This was one of the fastest growing scams of 2024.

Fake parcel delivery texts involve scammers sending fake delivery notifications for parcels, prompting the recipient to click on a link to reschedule delivery and pay a fee. The link often leads to a phishing site designed to steal personal information or install malware on the victim's device.

Remain vigilant and check delivery notifications very carefully to ensure they are genuine. Text messages may look remarkably similar to those that are genuine but may use generic greetings, such as, Dear Sir/Madam, or include spelling errors. Always question claims that you are due goods or services that you have not ordered or are unaware of, especially if you have to pay any fees upfront.

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040



## The Night Sky in Hildenborough – February 2025

Astronomy is celebrated this month with the returning “National Astronomy Week”, now in its 9<sup>th</sup> year, which runs from 1<sup>st</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> February. It’s normal for this event to occur every five years although the last one was severely hampered by Covid restrictions. The theme this year is “Chasing the Moon” where the public are encouraged to follow the Moon across the sky noting its change of position, and shape, relevant to the positions of bright stars and planets.

It starts off quite close to Saturn and Venus on the 1<sup>st</sup>, displaying a slim waxing crescent, and then travels in an arc across the sky growing in phase as it does so. By the 5<sup>th</sup> it is north of the comparatively faint Uranus having grown in phase to just past first quarter. On the 6<sup>th</sup> it lies close to, and north of, Jupiter when you will see that the Moon is now obviously “gibbous” in shape. Gibbous refers to when the illuminated portion of the Moon is between first quarter and full. On the nights of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> it continues to move towards the red planet, Mars, arriving there on the 9<sup>th</sup>. On that evening the Moon is less than half of one degree from Mars, indeed from Russia, Greenland and Iceland the Moon will pass in front of Mars or to be more precise, it will “occult” it.

If you’re interested in “Chasing the Moon”, then you can go to the National Astronomy Week website and download a map and instructions from <https://astronomyweek.org.uk/resources/> The map is printable and includes spaces for you to draw in the phases of the Moon on all nine nights.

Despite the fact that the phases of the Moon are changing all the time it may surprise you to know that half of the Moon is *always* illuminated. The only thing that changes is the amount of that bright half that is turned towards us. At “new” the lit half is facing the Sun so the “dark” side of the Moon, or if you prefer, the side in shadow, is facing us making it invisible. There is one caveat to that statement which is that during a solar eclipse, we *can* see the dark body of the Moon passing in front of the Sun. By the way, don’t forget that there is a partial eclipse of the Sun on March 29<sup>th</sup>. When the Moon is full, which occurs very roughly two weeks after new, the illuminated half faces us in its entirety.

Above I used the term “dark” to refer to the half of the Moon that receives no direct light, but this is not strictly correct because there is no permanently dark side. All of the Moon is illuminated in turn as it gradually revolves around the Earth over the course of approximately one month. It’s true that the same face is always directed at us, but the same face isn’t always directed towards the Sun.

There is around 50% of the Moon that we never see but that doesn’t mean it never gets any sunlight. It is better to refer to that half of the Moon as the “far” side.

The map here shows the positions of the four naked eye planets (plus Uranus) currently visible in mid-February at 6:30pm. Star names are in italics whilst constellation names are in capitals.

**Brian Mills FRAS**

## Tales from the Churchyard. Mr Thomas Francis. A Village family who has served the village over many generations



I have often wondered what was special about the men whose peers felt they were so special that they deserved to have a road named after them. Some of those who have their graves in our Churchyard have been honoured in this way. One such family judged to be worthy of this memorial to be a part of Hildenborough? With some it was wealth and status, but this was not the case with many, one such family who served the village for many generations was the Francis family.

Their story is that of the village through time. Through this family we can trace village history back to 1790. In that year the French Revolution was at its height and here George III was on the throne. The earliest record we have found is of Thomas Francis born on March 20<sup>th</sup> 1791, passed away in 1879 in his 90<sup>th</sup> year and was buried in St John's Churchyard.

Over the years he was to be joined by the graves of fourteen other members of the family. Thomas lived through the reigns of just 4 sovereigns and about 25 Prime Ministers. For most of those 89 years he had lived in the same house at Watts Cross that had belonged to the family since the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. At the time Thomas lived there it was called "Poplars" and is now called "The Cottage". It was a shop run by Thomas's wife Jane until it closed in 1881. Situated near the crossroads at

the heart of the original village it must have been a prime site getting traffic on the main road between Sevenoaks and Tonbridge and beyond. From about 1780 there were regular mail coaches along this road. The focus of the village moved when the new church of St John's was built in 1844: the building of the Church directly and indirectly affected the Francis family.

At the age of 19 he was called up into the Militia and joined the Tonbridge Troop of the Kentish Yeomanry. In 1815 he had the honour of bearing the Regiments colour when it went to Chatham to escort Louis XVIII on his way back to France after the proclamation of peace.

Thomas was active in church and village affairs throughout his life. He was Minister at the Wesleyan Chapel in Stocks Green Road which opened in 1826; during his time he started a Sunday School and maintained his association until the building was vacated by the church in 1844 when St John's church was built. He also took on the role of Church Warden at St John's church for several years. He served the village as an assessor and collector of Taxes as well as being the Parish Surveyor. His duties would have included collecting Highway Rates for Tonbridge Parish. His eldest son, also Thomas, was a cricket ball maker. His second son John was a councillor on the first parish council in 1894 and his grandson Edwin (Ted) also served on the parochial church council as well as being a sidesman and a member of the choir.

John was a founder member of the Gardeners' Society in 1896 and Ted also served as its chairman and in his time held many successful flower shows. Programmes and prize lists of the time show that the Francis family were keen gardeners.

Today we might consider any one of these roles sufficient to fill at the same time as earning a living. Life may have been slower but some managed to fill it to the full.

*George Gorham*

## From the Editor

Would you like to be in Keys Magazine? I am always on the look out for new content so if you have something to contribute, please send it in. The content deadline is the 15th of each month.

Can you spare an hour a month to help deliver Keys? Please get in touch with Clem (01732 833 543 or [clemgiles@hotmail.com](mailto:clemgiles@hotmail.com)) to register your interest. We are short in some areas and have back up lists in others.

Website update - We are currently building out the website and have some great ideas for what it can grow into. if you would like to be kept updated, please sign up for our mailing list at [www.keysmagazine.co.uk](http://www.keysmagazine.co.uk).

Looking for volunteers? I know that lots of volunteer organisations would love to have some new blood. If this is you, please contact me about our volunteer interviews. I love to showcase our volunteers and show what happens behind the scenes.

If you want to speak with me, I am at the Farmers' market on the first Tuesday of every month (8:30 - 11 at the village hall) with a pull up Keys banner. It's been great meeting readers and getting your feedback.

*Rob Mansfield*



*...are you late with your 'Vicar's Letter' again, dear?*



# Crossword for February 2025

## Across

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
- 9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
- 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
- 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
- 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
- 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
- 19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)
- 22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)

24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

## Down

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
- 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
- 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)

4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)

5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)

6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)

7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)

12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)

14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)

15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)

16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)

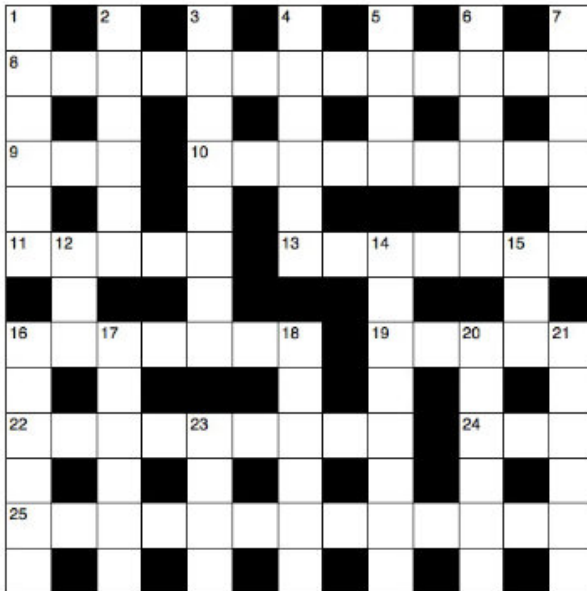
17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)

18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)

20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)

21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)

23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)



s	h	o	u	t	v	c	n	r	z	l	h	n
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locked

walls

captured

destroyed

Jordan

army

fight

once

gates

victory

Jericho

collapsed

camped

Israelites

chest

Joshua

safe

God

priests

trumpets

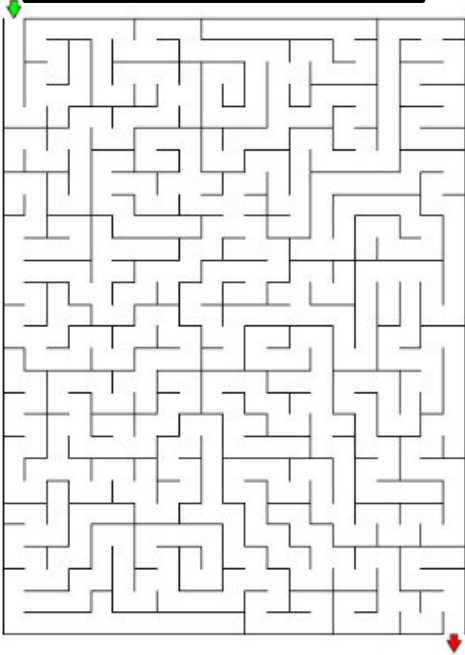
shout

town

walked

rushed

Maze - can you find your way?



**Sudoku**

*Easy  
(right)*

*Medium  
(Below)*

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

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

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Home (Connect) Groups

Prayer Chain

Bright Sparks, (Mondays, term-time)

Generation Creation (Sundays)

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Cynthia Fawcus **01732 833 397**

Lisa Glasscote **01732 833 596**

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## Community Groups

Evening Women's Institute

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

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

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

Guides

Brownies

Hildenborough Conservation Group

Hildenborough Farmers' Market

Hildenborough Gardeners' Society

Hildenborough History Society

Village Preservation Society

Hildenborough Litter Pickers

Hildenborough Parish Council

Hildenborough CofE Primary School

Stocks Green Primary School

Stocks Green Pre-School

Village Hall Bookings

West Kent Concert Band

Floodline

Hildenborough Speedwatch

**KENT POLICE (Non-emergency calls)**

## Hildenborough Sports

Badminton

Indoor (Short Mat) Bowls Club

Hildenborough Cricket Club

Hildenborough Friendly Badminton Club

Stoolball Club

Tennis Club (membership)

Hildenborough Road Races

Tonbridge Swimming Club

Tonbridge Bridge Club

Miss Lorna Stapley - **07960 174 789**

**hildenboroughbeavers8thtonbridgescouts@hotmail.com**

**hildenboroughwolfcubs@gmail.com**

**8thtonbridgescouts@gmail.com**

Sharon Roberts - **07960 782 178**

**hildenbrownies@outlook.com**

Mrs Lynne Flower **01732 355 080**

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

David Haugh **01732 832 869**

Judith McQuillan **01732 834 610**

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## PAYROLLING BENEFITS IN KIND

'Payrolling benefits in kind' means that employee benefits in kind (e.g. company cars and medical insurance) are reported to HMRC through the employer's payroll. Employees' tax codes are amended so that any income tax due on the benefits is paid throughout the tax year. If a benefit has been payrolled, it does not need to be included on form P11D.

Payrolling is possible for all benefits in kind, except for employer-provided living accommodation and beneficial (interest-free or low-interest) loans; these must still be reported on the P11D.

If an employer wishes to payroll benefits, they must register with HMRC before the start of the tax year in which they plan to start.

Regardless of whether benefits are included in the payroll or on a P11D, the employer must still include them in summary form P11D(b) and pay Class 1A National Insurance Contributions on the total taxable benefit value across the workforce. The deadline for filing the P11D(b) and paying the Class 1A NIC due is 6 July following the end of the tax year.

From 6 April 2026, payrolling benefits in kind will become mandatory for all employers for all benefits except for beneficial loans and living accommodation, although these will be able to be included in the payroll on a voluntary basis. It is hoped that this will bring simplification and clarity for employers and employees. As mentioned above, it is possible to choose to enter the regime one year early, from 6 April 2025, on a voluntary basis.

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