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From the Church

Road Trips with God: Leaving Comfort Behind

There's something deeply symbolic about a road

trip. It's a journey into the unknown - bags packed, satnav set (hopefully), and a sense that something new lies ahead. This August at St John's, we're exploring Road Trips with God - moments in Scripture when God called people to journey with Him. And it all begins with a man called Abraham, or Abram as he was known back then.

In *Genesis 12:1-9*, God speaks to Abram with what must have felt like a terrifying instruction: "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you."

No map. No timeline. No clear destination. Just a promise. Leave everything familiar - your culture, your family, your roots - and trust that I'll show you where to go. For most of us, leaving home for a long road trip is a decision made with a lot of planning. For Abram, it was a step of raw obedience.

What makes this so powerful is that God doesn't promise comfort; He promises purpose.

"I will make you into a great nation... I will bless you... and you will be a blessing."

This wasn't just about Abram. This journey was the beginning of God's great plan to bless the whole world. It began with a single step of faith - away from the comfort zone.

So what does this mean for us at St John's?

We might not be packing up a camel caravan to head into the desert, but the

call of God still invites us to journey. Maybe it's a change of heart, a step into new things, reaching out to someone, letting go of control, or simply trusting Him in the unknown that lies ahead.

Churches too are called to move, to respond to God's promptings. Sometimes it's about changing how we do things, starting something new, or leaving behind what once felt familiar. And it can feel unsettling - like Abram must have felt - but it's in that moment that faith grows.

When we obey God's nudge to step out, He often uses it to shape not just our lives, but to bless others too. Abram probably had no idea that his "yes" would eventually lead directly, in the future to Jesus - the ultimate fulfillment of God's promise.

So here's a question to ponder this August: What comfort might God be asking you to leave behind?

Perhaps it's time to travel lighter - spiritually speaking. Perhaps there's a new "road trip" ahead for you, one where the destination is unclear, but the Guide is trustworthy.

Like Abram, we won't have all the answers when we start. But we do have the promise of His presence, His blessing, and His purpose.

This summer, let's be a people who listen for the voice that says, "Go... to the land I will show you."

And let's pack faith before fear and trust that our maker knows us better than we know ourselves and we are safe when we walk with Him.

Grace and peace,
Rev. 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	Vacant	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	07876 451 168
Church Centre Bookings	Cynthia Fawcus	01732 833 397 cynthia@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Church Administrator	Vacant	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

9:15 - 10:30am - Contemporary service with breakfast served in the Church from 8:45am

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

11am - 12:15pm - Traditional service

Tuesday service

11:15am - 12pm Morning Prayer

Contact the office to receive Church News and Notices or follow us on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/stjohnshildenborough



ST JOHN'S CHURCH HILDENBOROUGH

Your Community Hub - More Than Just Sunday Service!

At St John's, we're a vibrant community, offering a warm welcome and a diverse range of events for all ages.

Church services:

Sunday at 9:15 am: Fuel Your Faith & Fun! Start your Sunday with a contemporary service, served with a delicious breakfast for all. Then let the children and youth join their groups in the church centre while you relax and reflect.

Sunday at 11:00 am: Traditional Service: A more traditional service with beautiful hymns and heartfelt reflection.

Tuesday at 11:00 am: Morning Prayer: A peaceful time for connection with God.

Community:

Bright Sparks Toddler Group (Tuesdays): A fun-filled haven for little ones, providing a safe space for play and a chance for parents and carers to connect.

Angel Café (Thursdays & Fridays): A welcoming space for all ages, perfect for a delicious treat and a chat.

Youth – Hive & Café Theo: A safe and exciting hangout for our young people – because belonging matters! Alternate Sunday and Friday evenings.

Who Let the Dads Out: A fantastic opportunity to meet other dads, enjoy some great food, and share the joys (and challenges!)

We also offer a home to: WI, Bridge, Keep Fit, Brownies, Discussion Groups, Quilting and more: Connect with like-minded individuals in our diverse range of clubs and groups.

Study Space: A quiet space for GCSE / A-Level students to study, free from distractions.

Supporting Our Community:

Food Bank: Providing vital support to those in need within our community.

Pastoral Care: Offering compassionate support and guidance to those who need it. Weddings, Funerals, Christenings: Celebrating life's milestones with you.

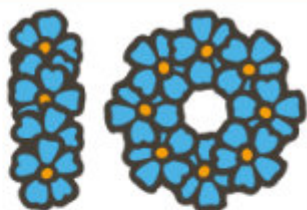
Church Centre Available for Hire: Perfect for birthdays, weddings, family gatherings, and more!



Forget-me-not Café - New logo

The summer is here and a reminder that there will still be a Forget-me-not Café at St. John's

Forget-me-not Cafés



10 Years 2015 - 2025

Companionship over a cuppa



Church Centre in August. We look forward to seeing you for a coffee, cake and a chat on the second Wednesday of the month. We meet at 11.00 am – 12.30pm in the Family Room. There is plenty of free parking and disabled facilities on site. The room is all set up with tablecloths and flowers and we welcome anyone to come along and join us for a couple of hours, to get out of the house and enjoy each others company. Whilst some of those who attend live with a diagnosis of dementia, others have mild memory loss or care for a person with dementia. There are also some who are lonely and would like some company. Come along and give us a try.

You will notice a new logo at the top of the article. The Forget-me-not Cafés are ten years old this year and there are celebrations being arranged so watch this space!

Most months we welcome an entertainer to sing or speak to us. For the month of July our entertainer was poorly and could not come so I stepped up (you'll be pleased to hear I wasn't singing) and told some stories about the time in 2016 that



my husband Mark was Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and I was very proud to be the Mayoress. I told about the time we were fortunate enough to be invited to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace and stood very close to the late Queen Elizabeth. We were given a behind the scenes tour of the Antiques Roadshow when it came to Ightham Mote and met Fiona Bruce and the other experts. The photo is my demonstration of the dancing we carried out at a wonderful Dashain Celebration by the Nepalese Community of Tonbridge. We attended over 200 events during our year.

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

Celebrating the ordination of Amanda Willmont

There aren't many roles that Amanda hasn't performed for St John's over the years. She has been a Gift-Aid secretary, PCC Secretary, administrator, prayer diary writer, home group leader and on just about every rota apart from flower-arranging! God has called her to serve elsewhere and we are delighted to announce that she was ordained as Deacon for St Luke's in Tunbridge Wells at Rochester Cathedral in late June.

Amanda was well supported by friends from Hildenborough who presented her with a bespoke English oak cross for her desk, a wooden finger labyrinth, garden voucher, further monetary gift as well as flowers, cards, wine, and a print with her favourite verse from John 16:33 *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world"*.



Congratulations as well to Adele Hopkins-Ballard on completing the foundation in Christian ministry course and being awarded her Bishop's Certificate.

Many will know Adele through her work with the community and food bank but she's the 4th from the left. Far right is the Bishop of Rochester. Well done Adele!



Meet the volunteer - *Becky Mackay, founder of Tonbridge Harvest*

Hi I'm Rebecca (Becky) Mackay. We initially moved out of London in 2016 while I was on maternity leave, as my husband Caspar had a job based in Tonbridge. We rented in Leigh and loved it, then we bought a house here in Hildenborough and loved it more! We moved here in 2019. Our son was born a few months later. Both children attend Stocks Green Primary school.

I created Tonbridge Harvest in 2021 with the idea of sending volunteers into people's gardens to pick any unwanted or excess fruit. The idea is to reduce food waste, make the most of our lovely Kent apples, and offer a hand to those who may no longer have the ability to pick their own gardens. I then re-distribute it outside our local schools, partly to encourage children to eat local food which might not quite look like it does in the supermarket and to offer pesticide-free and price-free food. The idea came from literature online about "gleaning" unwanted crops from farmers' fields. The Bible apparently tells farmers to leave corners of their fields unharvested, not to pick up that which was dropped (gleanings) and not to harvest any over-looked produce that had been forgotten when they harvested the majority of a field." (Editors note: This passage can be found in Leviticus 23:22) Websites such as The Abundance Network (www.abundancenetwork.org.uk) and Foodrise Urban Harvesting (www.gleaning.foodrise.org.uk) also helped.



We're a bunch of ad-hoc local volunteers and I'm always on the lookout for more people to join up. On occasion we use schoolchildren who absolutely love climbing a local tree to pick (with thanks to Carol and Tony). Separate to this I also volunteer to collect food for the Olio waste reduction app from the foodbank at Tonbridge Baptist Church. This goes to our Hildenborough foodbank when timing allows, or otherwise people can collect food from outside my house, which would otherwise have been thrown away by the supermarkets.

In terms of a time commitment - Very few unless it's fruit picking time when it might be half a day each week. It has to fit around other commitments. It was also put on the back burner for a while as I had a toddler and underwent cancer treatment.



One of my highlights is that it's given me the confidence to climb high and hang off the end of a ladder! But on the downside, there is forever the potential hazard of having an apple fall on your head!

Overall, it's been a brilliant way to get to know a much wider range of people here in Hildenborough and make friends in the community. I must give a plug for the wonderful tea tray the lovely Helen provides for us when we go to pick her orchard.



Going forward, I'd love to create a virtuous circle of enough volunteers, schools and getting the Scouts, Cubs or Brownies involved to be able to pick more of the private, often wild, orchards locally. I'm confident we could then use the apple press at Tonbridge School to make our own juice, as well as using all those knowledgeable people in our community to make jams and chutneys and teach our younger generations how to do it. Perhaps I can also hook up with the WI for this. And I would love to learn how to prune fruit trees properly.

If you'd like to get in touch, my details are tonbridgeharvest@hotmail.com or you are welcome to call 07876 026 058.

[More about me](#)

If you were Prime Minister for the day, what would be the first law you passed? I would pass into law a requirement for all housing developments to include affordable housing in situ, rather than the developer being able to pay for it to be in Leeds or somewhere similar... that's not much help to our Kent nurses or social workers!

Which 3 people, dead or alive would you invite for a dinner party and why? Marcus Aurelius the Roman General and philosopher because I'm

intrigued by the combination of those two roles and my son is named after him; Baroness Barbara Castle Labour MP and Peer who was such a female pioneer in parliament and did so much to support women (you may know her from the film *Made in Dagenham*) and talented, Hildenborough-based private chef Jonny because he can help me cook the meal!

If you could have a superpower, what would it be and why? In the words of Myers-Briggs, to be "a completer-finisher" and to bring to completion more of these hair-brained ideas I have.

What is an interesting fact about you? I got to travel for a year throughout Latin America in my early thirties. During my time there I ate mango in Panama knocked off trees by local youths using stones and a very good aim. And tasted cocoa fruit from derelict orchards situated in a Costa Rican national park.

What is your favourite section of Keys Magazine? I often read most of it and do enjoy learning about The Night Sky, seeing if I might attempt the latest recipe from Hildenborough Farmers' Market and checking out the Volunteer page.

Becky Mackay

12th Hildenborough Brownies Hit Gold!

Five members of the 12th Hildenborough Brownie Unit have achieved their Brownie Gold Award. This incredible feat consisted of each of the Brownies earning 24 interest badges, two skill-builders badges and six theme awards thus achieving their Brownie Gold Award.

For these girls, the Gold journey began 3 years ago when they joined the thriving 12th Hildenborough unit aged 7. Now their Brownie journey is complete, and they are moving onto pastures new and what an achievement to take with them!



Here's what the girls say about their Brownie Gold achievement.....

Millie G

"Achieving my Brownie Gold means that I've learnt lots of life skills, had lots of fun doing it, had a great time at pack holiday and made some lovely new friends along the way too! It makes me feel proud that I've achieved the award and that we're the first ones to get this in our brownie group!"

Sophie G

"Achieving my Brownie Gold award has made me extra proud to be a brownie

especially as we are the first from our unit. I have made lots of friends along the way and I will continue to use my life skills that I have learnt from Brownies in my life to come."

Ella W

"I am extremely proud of achieving my Brownie Gold Award. I've done so many fun activities, been away on pack holiday, and learned lots of new skills as part of an amazing team. It's helped me become more confident; try things I never thought I could do and make great memories with my friends. Getting my Gold Award feels like a really special achievement."

Molly L

"I feel really happy and proud to achieve my Brownie Gold Award, however I also feel sad to finish brownies. I've had lots of fun playing games, making friends and especially on the pack holidays. I will always remember the amazing time I had at Brownies!"



Jessica H

"Achieving my Brownie Gold Award means everything to me. Brownies has provided me with confidence, new experiences, fun, friends and laughter. I'm sad that my time at Brownies is nearly over, but I'm grateful for all the opportunities Brown Owl and the leaders have given me - and achieving the Brownie Gold Award is the cherry on top!"

The girls have worked incredibly hard to gain the Brownie Gold and we are all extremely proud of them - they have all been amazing Brownies and we are lucky to have such amazing girls in our unit - it's

what makes it thrive. As they complete their Brownie journey, we wish them all the very best and hope to see them back as Young Leaders.



'Brown Owl' Derryn Morton

Evening WI: For our July meeting we celebrated our 62nd birthday. We were joined by some members of other WI groups from Hadlow and West Peckham as well as one visitor.

The evening started as usual with the business for the month, sharing information and an update on the finances. We also talked about upcoming events-we will be running a cake stall at the band concerts at Tonbridge Castle in July and August and we hope to all meet for an afternoon tea in August, as there is no meeting.

We then all took part in a quiz, a range of questions several from 1963 when the group first started! The winner won a beautiful rose.

We then shared some tasty treats and a welcome drink while we chatted with our guests and caught up on everyone's news. It was a very enjoyable evening and lovely to spend time together.

We will take a break in August so our next meeting is ***Tuesday 9th September 2025***, we have a speaker Derek March "The Story of the Honey Bee"!

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



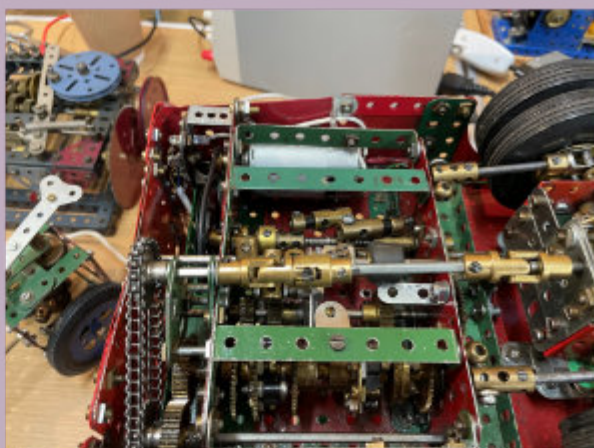
St John's Model Held o



Railway Exhibition on 12th July

The model railway show was a big success, having stands throughout the church centre and even being in the church itself. We had 12 amazing hand built layouts and 2 sales tables.

Thank you to everyone who came out to see us. Based on the smiles we saw, if you didn't see it, you missed a treat!



Whats on in and around our 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 Road Race – Supporting Our Village, Together. We need you!

What a brilliant year it's been for the Hildenborough Road Race! Not only was it a great day full of energy, encouragement and community spirit, but thanks to a bumper fundraising total – helped by a surplus from previous years – we've been able to share out nearly **£6,000** to support **eight fantastic local causes**:

The Oaks Nursery, Stocks Green Pre-School, Hildenborough Badminton Club, Hildenborough Stoolball Club, Hildenborough Girl Guides, Tonbridge Juddians Girls Section, Compaid and Leigh Primary School.

The money will go towards all sorts of valuable things – from outdoor play equipment and sports gear to team kits, training resources and updates to outdoor spaces. We also donated a further £500, on behalf of our volunteer photographers, to the Hospice in the Weald and Empathy Action - both local and very important charities. Every penny raised goes straight back into our community, which is exactly the purpose of the race.

The race is organised entirely by volunteers, and it really is a much-loved local tradition. Due to a few changes this year, we now only have a very small organising committee and while we absolutely love putting the event together, we simply can't do it all on our own.

We need **more people to help with the planning side** - general admin, helping with promotion, sorting signage, organising sponsorship or coordinating suppliers and other volunteers. These jobs don't take loads of time, but they make a huge difference to our workload.

We also **struggle every year to get enough committed help on the day (and the days immediately before)** until the very last minute. Although we always somehow muddle through, it puts a lot of unnecessary pressure on the small team behind the scenes. There are so many jobs to fill - from helping to set up and pack away, helping put out signage, helping on the registration desk, driving lead and sweep cars, manning the village hall door, trimming overhanging brambles on the route and so on. If you can take on one of these roles and **commit a little earlier**, we'd be incredibly grateful.

We'll be reviewing things in **November**, when planning for the 2026 race begins, and if we don't have enough support in place by then, we'll have to seriously consider whether we can go ahead. We'd love nothing more than to keep the race going for years to come – but we need more hands to make it happen.

So, if you've ever taken part in the race, cheered someone on, or just love what it brings to the village – please consider getting involved. It's a great team, and a wonderful way to give something back to the community.

If you think you could help in the lead-up or on the day itself, please get in touch with **Amy** – we'd love to hear from you.

Let's keep this brilliant community tradition going strong.

Amy Pay - hildenroadrace@gmail.com



Charity Football Match at Tonbridge Angels ground Longmead (TN10 3JF)

22nd August 8pm kick off in aid of Chasing Connor's Cure

Free entry - with all donations raising funds for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

Followed by a party with Connor as DJ!

FIND OUT MORE: @CHASINGCONNORS



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Are you struggling to pick and use your garden fruit and veg? Or would you like to come along and pick with us?

Urban harvesting community groups are on the rise, bringing pickers together with those who have surplus fruit and vegetables. The produce is then shared out and the owners receive an agreed portion of it. Young and old get involved and skills are shared. It could be as small as one gooseberry bush or as large as an orchard.

It would be great to avoid food waste, increase local understanding of our incredible apple varieties, and satisfy our tummies too!

Would you like your fruit trees or excess summer fruit picked by volunteers?
Or would you be interested in getting involved?

I'd love to hear from:

- garden owners
- would-be volunteers (no experience required),
- those knowledgeable in pruning and fruit tree care,
- chutney and jam makers,
- local organisations/schools/charities which would like to get involved or be recipients
- Local community cooking projects
- Anyone with picking/storage kit they'd be happy to lend

Please get in touch regarding any of the above:

Becky Mackay, tonbridgeharvest@hotmail.com or 07876 026 058.

For background information on Urban Harvesting Groups please visit:

- The Abundance Network www.abundancenetwork.org.uk
- Foodrise <https://gleaning.foodrise.org.uk/about/>

Becky Mackay

From our MP: Tom Tugendhat

We all know how potholes have become a persistent plague on our roads. Indeed, 95% of claims to local authorities from drivers are related to potholes. A third of Kent County Council's (KCC) highways and road maintenance expenditure is spent on pothole repairs. But we all know more needs to be done.

On average, 14,922 potholes were filled per authority in England over the past year. However, there were 24,217 potholes and road surface problems reported to KCC, which – although down from the year before – is unacceptable.

According to the Department for Transport, 53% of Kent's roads have been flagged for maintenance. The Government – both Labour and Conservative – have given KCC more than £202 million over the last 5 years for highways and roads maintenance.

We now have a County Council who have pledged to fill in every single pothole. So, I want to help them do that. I have

created a dedicated page on my website – www.tomtugendhat.org/potholes – where you can share with me any pothole you see, whether it be in your road, on your journey to work, or simply as you're walking past.

Please share with me as much information as you can, including the location of the pothole and, if you can get one safely, a picture. I will then contact KCC directly, on your behalf, to ensure they are doing as promised – and repairing every single pothole across every single street in Hildenborough.

My work is guided by you and your priorities, so please do share your thoughts with me, or contact me if you have any issues I can help with.

You can reach me using these details:
E-mail: tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk
Phone: 01732 441 563
Post: 130 Vale Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1SP

Tom

Tonbridge U3A – 25 Years in Tonbridge

Meet some of our members. Come along to our *Coffee Mornings* on the 3rd Friday of the month at **Christchurch** (Tonbridge High Street) from 10:30 am.

Not working full time? – TU3A may have something for you. Find out about us at www.tonbridgeu3a.uk.

Ollie Johnson

Hospice in the Weald Moonlight Walk – thanks for making it such a great success!

The 460 'Moonlight Walkers' who navigated routes through Sevenoaks and Knole Park on 14th June raised an amazing £130,000, including match funding from the Freddie Green and Family Foundation. Whilst the walkers are the stars of the show, we owe thanks to a number of people and organisations who contributed to the event's success – sponsors, volunteers, the local newsletters and event sites that advertised it, Sevenoaks Rugby Club who were the hosts, and National Trust Knole Park who provided a memorable route.

To all of you, thanks so much for your support. – All funds raised for Moonlight Walk supports Hospice in the Weald's care for people facing terminal illness and their loved ones in Kent and East Sussex.

Hildenborough Village Preservation Association – HVPA

**[https://hildenboroughhvpa.
wordpress.com/](https://hildenboroughhvpa.wordpress.com/)**



The last Keys article issued by HVPA alluded to renewed pressure to develop sites around Hildenborough Village and Hilden Park having regard to the change in Government.

Accordingly, TMBC has renewed its appeal for suitable sites to be put forward having regard to the previous “Call for Sites” campaign which was frustrated by the Covid outbreak.

At the end of 2024, Vistry published proposals for development of a site in Noble Tree Road to build 120 houses however no formal Planning Application has been forthcoming.

More recently at the end of May a similar exercise has been carried out by Hillbridge Park Limited to provide 40 new houses on a farmland site at the rear of 100 Tonbridge Road. Enabling works have already been undertaken in this respect although to date NO formal Planning Application has been made.

The Association has firm views on the future development of the Village as may be seen from the HVPA website.

The main concerns are the loss of Greenbelt land, over development without due regard to improvement of the infrastructure such that there is adequate provision made for schooling and the Doctors Surgery.

The B245 through Hildenborough also requires upgrading having been previously determined by HVPA via a professionally prepared Traffic Survey that the Road is running close to capacity.

Any future development along Tonbridge Road will adversely affect road safety.

The Association needs the views of residents regarding the future of Hildenborough. Your thoughts and views are invited and may be left by emailing hildenboroughhvpa@gmail.com

Please consider the points made on the HVPA website carefully as these may adversely affect the nature of Hildenborough.

HVPA urges all local residents to be members of the Association as the larger the membership the greater the influence it has particularly with planning matters. Details of how to join are on the website.

New or existing members to join us at Committee level would also be welcome.

David Vanns, Chairman HVPA



redeemed at our different stalls. What a brilliant present!

Contact the Market manager:
Nick Aldridge on: -

It's still summertime! The Farmers' Market is the place to be on a Tuesday morning during August. If you are wanting somewhere to take the children during the school holidays that is free, then come along to our Children's Activities.

During the school holidays our **Children's Activities** will take place on:

29th July - Workshop with Gary Poleykett

5th August - Do you know your vegetables? A quiz with a prize

12th August - Workshop with Gary Poleykett

19th August - Card craft

Photographic Competition

Have all you budding photographers entered our photographic competition? (details in last month's Keys) Don't forget that on the 12th and 19th August you can come along to the market and see the photos on display and vote for your favourites. The winner will be announced on the 26th August and a prize will be awarded for each age group and category.

There are two categories for the photographs:

Hildenborough Village Life

Hildenborough Wildlife

GIFT VOUCHERS

If you are looking for a gift with a difference, why not buy Farmers' Market Gift Vouchers. They start at £5.00, and you can make your gift up to as much as you would like. All vouchers can be

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.



FARMERS' MARKET RECIPE - **FRUIT LOLLY** (serves 4)

We have been experiencing some very hot weather so what better way to cool down than with an ice lolly

Ingredients

200g Greek style natural yogurt

100 ml milk

2tbsp clear honey

100g of summer fruits i.e. strawberries, cherries

Lolly mould / paper cups and straws/
sticks

Method

In a mixing bowl, combine yoghurt, milk, honey.

Finely dice the fruit, stir into the yoghurt mix.

Divide between lolly mould or paper cups.

Place stick or straw into each lolly.

Freeze overnight.

To remove lolly, warm the mould with your hands to melt a little.

Use the straw/stick to pull lolly out of mould.

Eat and enjoy!!

Hildenborough Cricket Club

Father and son, Oliver and Carter Stell made an impact with both bat and ball in the 43-run win over Wrotham St George. Richard Sparks' contender for catch-of-the-season was another highlight as Hildenborough claimed a third successive victory. Oliver hit 11 fours in his unbeaten 68 not out off 79 balls in a total of 147 in 35 overs. Sparks followed up his impressive fielding by dismissing visiting top scorer Matthew Crisp (56). Russell Skinner finished with 3-33, while Carter claimed the final wicket with only his third ball for the club on his debut - Greg Smith chipping in with two stumpings - Wrotham all out for 104.

An opening stand of 90 between JP Martens (51)



and Greg Smith (27) helped Hildenborough to a nine-wicket success against Chevening Amblers. Both retired not out, leaving Richard Sparks' unbeaten 27 off 21 balls with four fours to get them home on 131-1 inside 22 overs. Amblers were 67-5 at one stage before middle order runs pushed them to 127-7. Digby Russell and Tom Collier claimed two wickets each, Billy Francis and Mark Skinner one apiece - the latter answering a late call-up.

Hildenborough and Capel Development produced a total of 400 runs in a 35-overs-a-side contest. Mark Davies (51) Joe Sargent (46) and Dean Sands (38) - including a total of 22 fours - led the way in the villagers' trial if 207-3. Pieter Booyse's unbeaten 101 was the standout performer for Capel as they finished on 193-6, earning

Hildenborough a 14-run win.

Mark Skinner's four wickets couldn't prevent defeat at Brasted Invicta. 45 extras - including 28 wides - proved the highest score in Hildenborough's 111 - built around two stands of 28 and 24 - for the fourth and fifth - opener Greg Smith staying 72 balls to make top score of 28. Invicta's second wicket stand was the key to the four-wicket success - despite Skinner's pick of the bowler's performance.

August Fixtures

3/8: Farningham (A)

10/8: Wrotham St George (A)

17/8: Stonewall Park (A)

24/8: Kent Ramblas (H)

31/8: Petts Wood (H)

Pete Wood

T.M.B.C. News

Hildenborough Parking Review Correction.

I need to make a correction to my 'Keys' report for last month. At the Joint Transportation Board meeting, members decided to abandon all the Hildenborough proposals, except for the B245, Double Yellow Lines from Foxbush to Watts Cross Road, this means that the Ashley Road Double Yellow Lines at the entrance to Ashley Road will now not go ahead.

Flood Storage Works.

Residents who have signed up for the Environment Agency (EA) newsletter will be aware of this, so for other residents, the EA states that works are progressing well, the new centre gate was lifted into position in May, four to five weeks of testing followed, picture shows new gate with workers (for size) in Orange.



Along the stream behind the houses in Stacey Road, the concrete for the Penstock Chamber walls, are complete. This can be seen in the picture, work has also started on the new pumping station which is near to the Penstock Chamber.



The EA report that as part of the planning permission, they are committed to improving the Straight Mile and Powder Mill Stream, both unnaturally wide with slow moving water, causing silt to build up. The EA wants to; increase daylight to the bank and channel, improve Oxygen levels and wash away silt to expose gravel for fish to spawn. So, they cut down 55 specifically chosen trees and installed them as Timber Deflectors to narrow sections of the channels, as seen in the picture.



Now pardon me, but that looks like a man-made blockage should detritus become trapped by the Timber Deflector. So, I emailed my concerns to the EA and their response was;

"Thank you for your email. The deflectors we have installed are a standard river restoration technique used in both urban and rural watercourses. They are smooth apart from the final end point which could temporarily trap some minor woody material. However, the flood risk down both the Straight Mile and Powder Mill Stream is controlled by the Leigh Flood Storage Area which means that large timber structures (i.e. blockages to flow) can exist in the channel without increasing flood risk. Flood risk calculations have been carefully conducted and approved by flood risk engineers. I hope this reassures you'.

Planning Costs.

If a planning application is refused, either by planning officers or the Planning Committee (if officers recommend approval) the applicant has the option to

appeal the decision. The appeal may be awarded to the applicant; thus, the Council generally loses control of the application unless the Planning Inspector instigates recommendations that align with the Council. This procedure can cost the Council a great deal of money (Costs) the budget for costs has a limit. Costs however are not part of the planning process, so are not considered during the debate. But if members turn down an application against advice of approval, we defer to Full Council for a Costs report. It's a Catch 22 situation, if ever there was one.

The Tonbridge Town Centre East of High Street Masterplan Framework.

TMBC web pages and the Residents survey runs until the 31st August at www.tmbc.gov.uk/tonbridge.

tmbc.gov.uk/tonbridge. Hard copies of the survey are available at Tonbridge Castle and the Angel Centre. If you would like a .pdf copy by email, please contact me.

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 You Tube, 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 Gardeners' Society

On 6th July, a number of committee and ordinary members opened their gardens to all members to visit and chat about gardening, problems and life in general. Despite mother nature deciding to treat us to some rain and thunder mid-afternoon, the event proved to be worthwhile to those who came out to see. It is hoped to run a similar event next year, with more gardens open to visit.

Our visit to RHS Wisley will have taken place by the time you read this, and the store will be closed during August, re-opening on Sept 6th - one week before our autumn show.

HGS membership is only £7 per year and comes with a lot of benefits. You can join at the store on Saturday mornings, at any of our shows, or via our membership secretary Carolyn on 01732 838 550.



David Haugh

Centre Piece

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

Contact: Louise Jenner (Clerk) - 07818 329 029 clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk

Postal Address: Pavilion and Recreation Ground, Riding Lane, TN11 9HY

Environmental Survey at West Wood Pond

Westwood Pond recently welcomed Derek from the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership, representing Natural England, as he conducted a Habitat Suitability Survey to evaluate the ecological conditions of the area.

As part of the survey, Derek performed water testing at 20 strategic locations around the pond in search of Great Crested Newt DNA - a protected species in the UK. During the pond dipping larvae of frogs, newts, and mayflies were seen.



Hildenborough Conservation Society meet with Councillor

The Hildenborough Conservation Society recently welcomed a local councillor for a walk-through of Westwood, showcasing the dedicated environmental work they've been carrying out. Their efforts have helped preserve and enhance this cherished green space, which now boasts

a diverse array of trees and shrubs across its landscape.

From sturdy oaks to flowering hawthorn, Westwood offers an ever-changing natural canvas—one that invites visitors to connect with nature. Whether you're taking a quiet stroll or exploring with family, keep an eye out for the different plant life thriving throughout the site.

- Aspen - *Populus tremula*
- Blackthorn - *Prunus spinosa*
- Cherry (Wild) - *Prunus avium*
- Dogwood - *Cornus sanguinea*
- Field Maple - *Acer campestre*
- Guelder-rose - *Viburnum opulus*
- Hawthorn - *Crataegus monogyna*
- Hazel - *Corylus avellana*
- Holly - *Ilex aquifolium*
- Silver Birch - *Betula pendula*
- Spindle - *Euonymus europaeus*

West Wood Park and Recreation Ground Shine After July Cleaning.

In early July, jet washing was successfully carried out across West Wood Park and the Recreation Ground—bringing a fresh look to two of the community's most used

spaces. The transformation has been met with enthusiasm from local residents, who've already noticed the positive impact on the appearance and feel of the facilities.

Whether it's a family picnic, a walk, or just passing through, we hope the spaces are more inviting.



Have Your Say!

Hildenborough Parish Council feedback and suggestion form is available from our website under the news section.

Once completed, please return it via email to clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk, or drop it in the green letterbox on the side of The Pavilion at the Recreational Ground.

Louise Jenner

07818 329 029

The Night Sky in Hildenborough – August 2025

If you're an early riser, then you're in luck if planets are your thing because Saturn, Jupiter and Venus are all visible in the morning skies throughout August. In fact, on the 12th, Jupiter and Venus are very close together (less than 1° apart) nearly due east at 5am with an altitude of 20°. If you prefer your astronomy in the evenings then the planets will be back on view later in the year for you.

Of course, planets aren't the only things that orbit the Sun. Beside the eight planets there are five dwarf planets; Ceres, Pluto, Haumea, Makemake and Eris in order from the Sun outwards. Then there are countless asteroids that exist in the asteroid belt mostly between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. These are mainly made up of metals and rock

At a much greater distance from the Sun is another band of generally small objects that inhabit the "Kuiper Belt" which lies beyond Neptune. Actually, the dwarf planet, Pluto, is a member, and indeed the largest member, of this belt although, at one time, Pluto was thought to exist in splendid isolation. Now astronomers think that there are at least 100,000 objects that measure over 100km in diameter. What number of smaller bodies exist there is a matter for conjecture. The bodies in this belt are, in the main, composed of ices of water, methane, ammonia and sulphur dioxide, amongst others.

The other type of solar system objects that we haven't considered yet are comets. Until fairly recently it was thought that bodies in the Kuiper belt were gravitationally disturbed and sent towards the inner solar system to become comets as they heated up and gave off volatile gasses to make them visible. This idea has lost support and it is now thought that comets, particularly those with a short orbital period come from a group of objects even more distant than

the Kuiper Belt known as the Oort Cloud. I should say that this cloud is currently purely theoretical!

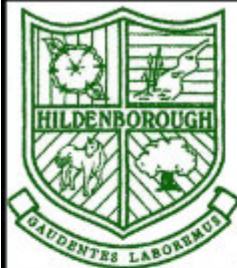
Whatever it is that causes comets to come our way, or where ever they originate from, one thing we can thank comets for are the various displays we see by way of meteor showers every year and, of course, the arrival of August is a reminder that one of the year's most active displays (the Perseids) is imminent.

The name meteor can cause some confusion because it refers only to a piece of space debris that enters the Earth's atmosphere and "burns" up. This debris can range in size from a grain of sand up to something in the order of 1 metre in diameter. Much of this material has been ejected from comets (occasionally asteroids) as they pass through the solar system. Before it announces itself in a streak of light as it hits the atmosphere, it will have been in orbit around the Sun and at that time would be called a "meteoroid". If that meteoroid, having become a meteor and "burnt" up, should be large enough for some part of it to reach the ground then the part that lands becomes a "meteorite".

I use the term "burn" loosely because very small pieces of debris are heated by colliding with the particles in the atmosphere whereas larger objects that make the same journey are heated by something known as "ram pressure" though the differences between the two are immaterial to us.

Don't forget that the Perseid meteor shower reaches its peak on the evening of August 12th. You should go out and look as soon as it begins to get dark because a waning gibbous Moon will interfere although it will initially be low in the east. Because of that, try looking between the north west (towards the Plough) and the north east.

Brian Mills FRAS



At Hildenborough CE Primary School, we have been digging during our weekly Forest School sessions. Over the past year or so, we've started to uncover bottles and pots. We were fascinated by the items we had found and began collecting them for a display - which has been growing rapidly!

In Term 6, we launched an Archaeology Club and continued to discover many artefacts, including glass bottles, ink bottles, pottery jars, shards of glass, plates, and cups. We've also been learning how to use a trowel and dig proper trenches. Mrs Buckland often reminds us to keep "straight sides!" - she's an expert in the field.

We have several theories about why we're finding so many jars, bottles, and pieces of pottery. One theory is that there may have once been a doctor's surgery or chemist on the Forest School site, based on the poison bottles and pestle and mortar we uncovered. Another idea is that all these items were thrown into the pond in the Recreation Ground (which lies just beyond our fence). Perhaps, over time, when the pond was dredged or emptied, the rubbish was deposited on the nearby land.

We would love to continue Archaeology Club next year and to learn more about the history of our school and the local area—especially as we prepare to celebrate the school's 180th anniversary in 2027. We hope to explore other parts of the school grounds too. Who knows? We might even uncover evidence from the Second World War or from when the school was first built!



If you have any information about the history of Hildenborough School or the village, we'd love to hear from you. Or if you've ever found interesting items while digging in your garden, please let us know! You can contact us at office@hildenborough.kent.sch.uk.

This blue bottle (left) is our best find in Archaeology Club from this term!

Antique Tiny Triangular Flat Backed Cobalt Blue Poison Bottle, 1 Dram, Ribbed, Design No 469164 for 1905, Rare Apothecary Chemist Bottle

This picture (right) shows the children busy digging during Archaeology Club, June 2025.

Mrs Ardley



Wordsearch



sight
widows
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threshed
inherited
tomorrow
Bethlehem
Boaz
harvest
asleep
land
meeting
feet
Naomi
shocked
midnight
dawn
Ruth
uncovered
refusal
bitter
ancestor
grain

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k	c	s	r	r	c	h	n	t	n	k	v	i
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Sudoku (easy below, medium right side)

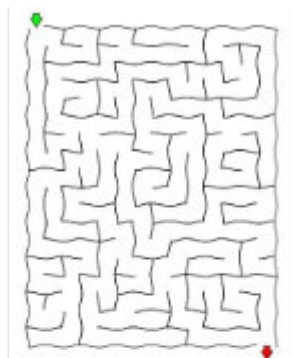


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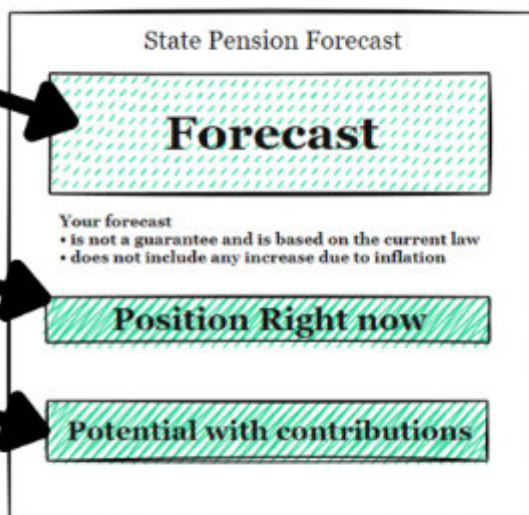
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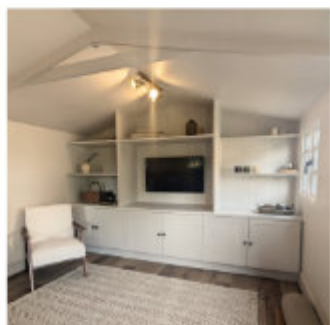
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Local Directory

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

Miss Lorna Stapley - **07960 174 789**
hildenboroughbeavers8thtonbridgescouts@hotmail.com
hildenboroughwolfcubs@gmail.com
8thtonbridgescouts@gmail.com

Brownies
Hildenborough Conservation Group
Hildenborough Farmers' Market

Sharon Roberts - **07960 782 178**
hildenbrownies@outlook.com
Mrs Lynne Flower **01732 355 080**
managerhildenboroughfm@gmail.com

Hildenborough Gardeners' Society
Hildenborough History Society
Village Preservation Society
Hildenborough Litter Pickers

David Haugh **01732 832 869**
Judith McQuillan **01732 834 610**
David Vanns **01732 835 289**
Emily Simons **07715 113 899**

Hildenborough Parish Council
Hildenborough CofE Primary School
Stocks Green Primary School
Stocks Green Pre-School

Louise Jenner **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

Village Hall Bookings
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0345 988 1188

Southern Water (spillage reporting)
Hildenborough Speedwatch

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jonathan.ashton.bidwriting@gmail.com

KENT POLICE (Non-emergency calls) 101

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

Kathryn Stewart **07809 299 553**
David Chambers **01732 833 612**
Barry Webb **01732 838 422**
Ivan Kirkpatrick **07730 888 429**
Lauren Welch **07999 604 213**
www.hildenboroughtennis.co.uk
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chairman@tonbridgeswimmingclub.co.uk
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The account is then used to pay Ofsted registered childcare providers. Note that it doesn't need to be the

child's parents paying into the account; Uncles, Aunts, Grandparents and others can also make payments. The government have noticed that many families who are eligible for this scheme are yet to set up their accounts, so if you are an employer you could bring this to the attention of your staff to increase the take up.

Note that parents are not eligible if either of them has adjusted net income in excess of £100,000 for the current tax year.

If you would like any advice,
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