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# From the Church

## Summer Lessons and September Fresh Starts

In the Bible, Ecclesiastes 3 says this in the Old Testament

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."

I wonder how your summer was. For many, summer often gives us a chance to slow down and notice God and things that matter in the ordinary. Maybe it was a quiet morning with a cup of tea, a holiday that stretched your horizons, or a conversation with a neighbour that made you think. These moments - big or small - can teach us about God's presence in our lives and remind us to be grateful for the everyday blessings around us.

Even the challenges of summer - plans that didn't work out, patience tested, or unexpected disruptions - can reveal lessons in faith, grace, and gratitude. Perhaps it was a moment of frustration with travel delays, or a small family disagreement that gave you insight into patience and forgiveness. These experiences, though minor at the time, can hold profound spiritual significance. And as someone once said, "Life is what happens when you're busy making other plans", reminding us that God's timing and presence often surprise us!

Summer is also a season for encounters - sometimes with new people, sometimes with old friends we haven't seen in a while. These interactions can remind us of God's presence in relationships and community, encouraging us to be intentional in building connections and showing love to those around us. It's as if God has wired us for connection with significant others and we flourish when we

have them. In Summer, the hope is we slow down enough for those connections to deepen.

Now we are in September and it can often feel like a "new year." School resumes, work demands kick in, schedules tighten, and church groups start back up. While it may feel like a return to busyness, it is also an invitation to start fresh and bring intentionality to our days.

Routines might sound mundane, but they can be powerful tools for spiritual growth. Establishing small, consistent practises - morning prayers, reading a verse of scripture, or checking in on a neighbour - can transform ordinary days into opportunities to experience God's love. Each new week offers a chance to practice gratitude, patience, and mindfulness in our routines.

This is also a great time to explore new ways to engage with your church community. Perhaps you'll join a home group, volunteer in a new ministry, or find a way to serve in your local community. Even small acts - sharing a meal, offering encouragement, or listening attentively - can become expressions of God's love.

The insights from summer - quiet revelations, joyful moments, and even challenges - can guide us as we step into September. Let your routines become channels for practising gratitude, patience, and presence. Share encouragement, serve others, and allow God's lessons to shape your everyday choices.

God is in the quiet moments, the routines, and the new beginnings - we only need to notice and embrace His presence.

Grace and peace,  
**Rev. Tim Saiet**



# 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.

Office Hours - Monday to Friday 10am till 4pm

Role	Name	Contact Details
Vicar	Rev Tim Saiet	07973 136 968 <a href="mailto:tim@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk">tim@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk</a>
Children and Youths Pastor	Lisa Glasscote	<a href="mailto:lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk">lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk</a>
Church Administrator	Emma Joynson-Hicks	01732 833 596 <a href="mailto:office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk">office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk</a>
Church Volunteers		
Lay Readers	Trevor Long	07513 420 509
Warden (Acting)	Steve Wood	<a href="mailto:stevewood@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk">stevewood@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk</a>
Treasurer	Rich Lake	07579 210 122 <a href="mailto:treasurer@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk">treasurer@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk</a>
Safeguarding	Kate Lake	07579 821 956 <a href="mailto:safeguarding@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk">safeguarding@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk</a>
Church Centre Bookings	Cynthia Fawcus	01732 833 397 <a href="mailto:cynthia@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk">cynthia@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk</a>
Foodbank and Warm Hub	Denise Netherton	07942 148 175 <a href="mailto:denise@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk">denise@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk</a>
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# WHATS ON?

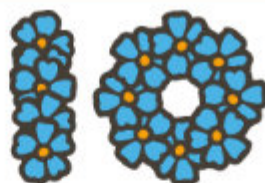
ST JOHN'S CHURCH  
HOLDEN ROAD



Church Services	What's On?
Sunday 9.15am – 10.30am	A contemporary service with a programme for children and youth. Breakfast is served from 8.45am and everyone is welcome.
Sunday 11am – 12.15pm	A more traditional service with hymns, regular Holy Communion.
Tuesday 11.15am – 12 noon	Morning prayer – a peaceful time for connection with God.
Community	What's On?
<b>Wednesday 3 September</b> 7.30pm in the Church	<b>Prayer &amp; Praise</b>
<b>Wednesday 17 September</b> 7-9pm	<b>Baptism classes start</b>
Regular community events	
<b>Monday - weekly</b> 10-11.45am Church Centre £3/family, from 15 September	<b>Bright Sparks Toddler Group</b> A fun filled haven for little ones providing a safe space for play and a chance for carers and parents to connect.
<b>Tuesday - weekly</b> 11am -1pm, weekly Church Centre	<b>Food Bank</b> If you know someone who needs a helping hand with some essentials, please contact the Food Bank. Donations gratefully accepted of non-perishable food in jars and cans.
<b>Wednesday 10 September</b> 11am – 12.30 Church Centre 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month	<b>Forget-me-not Café</b> Whilst some of those who come to the café live with dementia, others may have memory loss or care for a person with dementia. Join us for coffee and cake.
<b>Wednesday – from 1 October</b> 12-2pm, Church Centre	<b>Warm Hub</b> Free homemade soup & bread roll, tea & coffee. All welcome.
<b>Thursday &amp; Friday</b> 9am – 2pm Church Centre Starts on 4 September	<b>Angel Café</b> A welcoming space for all ages, perfect for a delicious treat and a chat.
<b>Saturday</b> 9.30am-11am, Church Centre 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month	<b>Who let the dads out?</b> A fantastic opportunity to meet other dads, enjoy great food and share the joys and challenges of fatherhood. (for children 0-6)
Children & Young People	What's On?
<b>Sunday</b> 9.15-10.30am Term time only	<b>Generation Creation</b> For primary school aged children and young people years 6 and above. Start in the church and move to the Church Centre.
<b>Sunday 14 September &amp; Sunday 28 September</b> Church Centre	<b>The HIVE Youth Group</b> For school years 6-13, £1 per session
<b>Friday 31 October</b> 5-7pm, Church Centre	<b>Light Party</b> – alternative to Halloween Theme: You are one in a minion
Future Dates	What's On?
Sunday 5 October 9.15am 11am	<b>Harvest Service</b> There will be separate activities for children in the Church Centre, and everyone welcome.
Sunday 9 November	Remembrance Sunday
Saturday 29 November 1pm – 6pm, Church Centre	<b>Christmas Fair</b> Food & drink, Father Christmas Grotto, arts & crafts stalls
Wednesday 10 December	<b>Dementia Friendly Carol Service</b>



# Forget -me- not Cafés



10 Years 2015 - 2025

*Companionship over a cuppa*



and examinations may be involved. They will continue to support you throughout your experience of dementia and help you plan for the future.

How can I find my local Dementia Co-ordinator? You can call the

Dementia Co-ordinator line on 08000 352 221 or email [referrals@alz-dem.org](mailto:referrals@alz-dem.org) and they will get back to you.

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

at St John's church centre. 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



The Forget me not Café was open in August, and we were very busy. The Café looked lovely with its checked tablecloths and flower arrangements. We welcomed Tom Carradine and his cockney singalong which had us all singing to songs like the Lambeth Walk, if you were the only girl in the world, some more modern songs by Cliff Richard and Rod Stewart plus many more. We were all tapping our feet, with Tom having a knack of making everyone feel good and happy and leaving with a smile on their faces.

We also had a visit from Elise who is a Dementia Co-ordinator with the *Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Services* (ADSS). A Dementia Co-ordinator can work with you and your family to gain access to information, support and any guidance you may need to get the most out of life and understand the condition.

If you think you may have dementia or are worried about your memory it is important to get treatment and support, and this is where a Dementia Co-ordinator can help you with what tests

couple of hours, to get out of the house and enjoy each other's 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.

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**





**HIVE**  
Hildenborough Village  
**The Hive**  
**Youth Group**

For school year  
**6-13**  
**£1 for these**  
**session**



**Sunday 14th September**  
**A visit from Animalia Encounters.**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September**  
**Cake Decorating/ Bake Off**

**All youth leaders hold a valid DBS**

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



**Tonbridge Community Singers - Appearing at St John's Christmas Fair**

Would you like to sing with us at St John's Church Christmas Fair? Tonbridge Community Singers sing a wide range of music and welcomes new members throughout the year. No auditions, ability to read music not essential. Next term starts Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September, 7pm – 8.30 pm at St Peter & St Paul Church, Tonbridge. Free 6-week trial. Contact us at [tonbridgecommunitysingers@gmail.com](mailto:tonbridgecommunitysingers@gmail.com)

**From the Parish records**

**Burials**

Sarah Maria Tate was  
buried on 26 June 2025

Barbara Griffiths was buried  
on 14 July 2025

**Weddings**

Aron Forder and Rachel  
Stalker were married on 4  
August 2025

## **Meet the volunteer (campaigner) – Sally Pearce – Tonbridge Needs Access to Cash**

Hi, I'm Sally and I have lived in Tonbridge for over 25 years. I love my local community and over the years have done my best to support events and our lovely local independent businesses.

This campaign was triggered by the many bank branches closing on Tonbridge High Street. The world is changing, and we use cash less and less, but many people still do and if we want them to be able to then they and the businesses they buy from need local banking services. The particular issue in Tonbridge (and surrounding areas) was a shortage of business banking services – there's no point having cash in our pockets to spend if the places we want to spend that money cannot easily bank their takings or get change for their tills. I have been fighting for Tonbridge to get a Banking Hub.

A Banking Hub is a shared banking space with counter services and community bankers available to chat. Something that will be a huge benefit to Tonbridge and surrounding communities.

Over the past 18 months I've been writing emails, researching, making submissions, talking to people and raising the profile of this issue. Essentially making it difficult for those who make the decision to continue saying no.

It's been 18 months of ups and downs.

And the best bit is that we won. Tonbridge now has a Banking Hub temporarily housed in the Castle (opened

on 4 June 2025) while the search continues to find and set-up its permanent home.

You can find details of the services and opening hours on the Cash Access website here <https://www.cashaccess.co.uk/hubs/tonbridge-kent/>

**What is an interesting fact about you?** I'm a publican's daughter and lived above a North London pub in the 1970s. I can pour a pint while chatting to a customer and totting up the price of a round in my head and working out the amount of change.

**If you were Prime Minister for day what is the first law you would pass?** I think I'd need a magic wand to make the changes I would like to see, so I will start with something simple (!?) and protect and fix the NHS (not sure what I will do in the afternoon).

**What is your favourite section of Keys Magazine?** I'm a puzzle fiend. It's always the first place I look.

**Which 3 people dead or alive would you invite for a dinner party? And why?** Definitely Terry Pratchett as I love his books, his humour and his attitude. I'd like to also invite my son (who lives in Australia) and daughter but I'm guessing they need to be famous guests so instead I'd invite Paul Weller and Chris Packham. I think that will be a lively conversation.

**If you had a superpower, what would it be? and why?** Fly – always wanted to when I was a kid (sorry there's nothing deep and meaningful in that answer).

**Volunteer interview - your chance to feature!** If you volunteer your time please get in touch with me at [editor@keysmagazine.co.uk](mailto:editor@keysmagazine.co.uk). My aim is to celebrate those who 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 which are often in need of new volunteers.

**Rob Mansfield**



# AUDITION NOTICE

The newly established Hildenborough Amateur Dramatic Society is seeking enthusiastic performers to audition for their January 2026 pantomime.



**With plenty of roles available for all ages.**

## AUDITIONS

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2pm  
Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 7pm

St John's Church Centre  
Foxbush  
Hildenborough  
TN11 9HT

To express your interest or learn  
more, please contact Rich  
[richielake@googlemail.com](mailto:richielake@googlemail.com)

07579 210 122

Don't miss the  
chance to be  
part of what  
promises to be  
a fantastic  
show!





## THE FILLING STATION

West Weald

### West Weald Filling Station

- 24 September: Graham Kendrick
- 22 October: Chris Wickland
- 26 November: James Nickols
- 10 December: The Gift with Andy Kind

### Encountering Jesus, Equipping the Church

The Filling Station is a network of monthly gatherings of nearly 70 meetings worldwide, where our focus is on worship, prayer, spiritual renewal, and sharing the Good News of Jesus.

So, join us for our Autumn term at West Weald Filling Station, for worship, teaching, prayer, fellowship & great hospitality!

### Come and join us!

7:30 for 8pm - 9:30pm

Fordcombe Village Hall, Fordcombe, Kent, TN3 0RY

Mostly 4th Wednesdays (not July, Aug) 10<sup>th</sup> Dec this year

More info at...

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



## The Night Sky in Hildenborough – September 2025

“The early bird catches the worm”, so the saying goes and it’s one that applies equally well to astronomers who are up and about before sunrise, particularly at the moment. In mid-September, around 5am to 5.30am, the planets Venus and Jupiter are visible in the east along with a waning crescent Moon. The other added attraction is that the brilliant “winter” constellations of Orion and his retinue of dogs and other animals lie above the south eastern horizon. The bright star Sirius, the brightest in the night sky, is  $15^\circ$  in altitude although because it is low down, and shining through a thick layer of the atmosphere, won’t appear to be exceptionally bright.

Venus is a brilliant object, lying close to due east, with a similar altitude to Sirius. Back in May it was in a position where it *appeared* to be at its furthest from the Sun although this is purely a line-of-sight effect caused by the positions of the Sun, Earth and Venus with respect to each other. Now the planet seems to be drawing closer to the Sun and will pass behind it in early January 2026 before it reappears in the evening sky again.

Jupiter is also bright and lies a little further to the west (right) of the more brilliant Venus as well as being higher in the sky. Its altitude is about  $45^\circ$ , so if you remember that the overhead point, known as the zenith, is  $90^\circ$  then Jupiter is roughly halfway between it and the horizon.

On the evening of 7<sup>th</sup> September there will be a total eclipse of the Moon. The event begins at 5:27pm when the Moon is still below the horizon. It rises a little south of east at 7:30pm so the eclipse has been in progress for a while by then and has already reached totality. However, unlike totality during a solar eclipse which lasts for just a matter of minutes, totality during a lunar eclipse can last much

longer. In the case of September’s event, totality lasts for 1 hour and 22 minutes, concluding at 7:52pm. Of course, this isn’t the end of the eclipse, just the total phase. We can then watch for another hour whilst the partial phase plays out as we see the Moon move gradually out of the Earth’s shadow to finally leave it at 8:56pm. By this time the Moon will still only be  $12^\circ$  in altitude so, if possible, try to observe from a location that has a good horizon towards the east south east.

Earth reaches the autumnal equinox on September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:19 pm when, day and night are considered to be equal. This isn’t precisely true because the Sun is a disk and daylight is calculated from when the first chink of it appears above the horizon until the last chink of it has gone. However, astronomers calculate the equinox to occur on the day and at the time that the centre point of the Sun is exactly over the equator and not by how much daylight there is. So, if on the day of the autumnal equinox, you had a perfect view of sunrise and sunset and timed the amount of daylight, you would find there was (from our latitude) around 12 hours 11 minutes of it. The day when the actual amount of day and night is closest to equal, which is known as an “Equilux”, would be on the 25<sup>th</sup> September.

I hope some of you were able to watch the program about light pollution on BBC 1 on 22<sup>nd</sup> July. I’ve spoken here about it before and will return to this important topic later, but it highlighted the negative health effects not only on the animal kingdom but also on us humans. You have simply to stand outside at night to observe the social inadequacy of your neighbours who have a need to floodlight their homes and gardens without a shred of environmental conscience.

**Brian Mills FRAS**



## ***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!

### **Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells Beekeepers - Annual Honey Show and Craft Fair**

Saturday 27th September - St John's Church Centre 2-4pm. Free entry.

There will be a display of our prize-winning honey, and we will be selling locally made, unpasteurised honey. The craft fair will include a wide range of products from a number of local sources. You can also find out more about beekeeping as a hobby and help us in our efforts to track down Yellow Legged Hornets.

Refreshments available.

### **UK Government Emergency Alert Test - 7<sup>th</sup> September 3pm**

Emergency Alerts is a UK government system that provides warning and advice in a life threatening emergency.

The government will be running a national test of the Emergency Alerts system on Sunday 7 September 2025.

This will be sent to every mobile phone on the network and so if you have a secret device, perhaps for your safety, please be aware and make sure it's off on the 7<sup>th</sup> September.



### **8<sup>th</sup> Scouts Tonbridge - Quiz Night Fundraiser**

**12<sup>th</sup> September - Hildenborough Village Hall 7pm till 11pm**

**£10 - all proceeds go to the 8<sup>th</sup> Tonbridge (Hildenborough) Scout Group - registered charity 303464**

Teams of up to 6 per table. Please bring your own food, drink and glasses.

Scan the QR code on the right to book your team in:



## Hildenborough Gardeners Society - annual quiz evening



**October 3<sup>rd</sup> - £5 entry** On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, HGS will be holding its annual quiz evening at the Village Hall. As for last year, it will be a bring-a-picnic event, food, drink and utensils. Tables of 6 will be used, so if you do not have that number, we shall group people together. There will be multiple topics of questions, and a raffle will complete the proceedings. The cost will be £5 per head, and tickets will be on sale at the store in September, as well as at our Autumn Show on the 13<sup>th</sup>. If you can't make those times, give me a call on 01732 832 869.

**David Haugh**

## Hildenborough History Society concern over Hilden Manor name change to "Neversaynever"

You may have seen that the Hilden Manor shut in mid August and has been bought by Elite Pubs. As part of a renovation, they have announced that it will be renamed "Neversaynever". I have contacted Elite Pubs to express our concern at the name change. My email is below:

*Dear Sir/Madam*

*I am the treasurer of Hildenborough History Society, and we have seen the recent announcement of the change of ownership of the Hilden Manor.*

*You must of course be aware of the historical importance of this grade 2 listed building and affection and memories it evokes in the local population.*

*We wonder if you have taken this into account when considering your proposed name change. We realise that you will want to revamp and modernise the image of the pub in line with your other establishments.*

*However, we feel that the name "The Neversaynever" does not reflect the history of this lovely old building and there is a growing antipathy both in Tonbridge and Hildenborough to this change, which is meaningless to locals in its context. We hope in light of this you might reconsider and preferably keep its historical title. If this is not possible, perhaps you could incorporate the new name in a longer title such as "The Neversaynever at the Hilden Manor".*

*I look forward to hearing from you in due course.*

*Kind regards*

*Howard Dolling*

*Treasurer, Hildenborough History Society*

I'm pleased to say that Elite Pubs have offered us a meeting and we will be meeting them week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> August (After the Keys content deadline). We will keep you informed thereafter.

**Howard Dolling**





During the month of August, the Market was very busy with lots of different activities particularly for the children during the school holidays. For two of the weeks, we enjoyed being entertained by the popular Gary Poleykett who one week did a variety of crafts and then another week did a circus workshop with plate spinning and learning how to use a diabolo. Gary has been a children's entertainer and certainly knows how to make everything fun to learn. We also had a "Do you know your vegetables?" quiz, trying to identify which one was what. Everyone was pretty good although the fennel stumped some of you. A poll of the vegetables found the potato to be the most popular and surprisingly not as chips but boiled. As I write we are looking forward to our last activity of the holidays which will be another craft activity making animal pictures out of buttons.

Did you enter our photographic competition? Hopefully by now you will know whether you were a prize-winner, which will have been announced on the 26<sup>th</sup> August. The photographs were on display during the market and our customers voted for each category. Hopefully next month we will be able to tell you the winners and show you their photographs.

We also celebrated being at the Village Hall for a year, where has that time gone! It is lovely that the Market and the café area are so busy, we are often having to find space for more tables and chairs. Please come along for some shopping and join us for a coffee and a chat afterwards – we would love to see you!

### **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 redeemed at our different stalls. What a brilliant present!

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.**





**Wide range of  
kids play  
equipment**



# **WHO LET THE DADS OUT?**

**First Saturday of the Month**

**9:30-11am**

**Church Centre, Foxbush TN11 9HT**

**No need to book**

**£3 per family; includes hot breakfast roll and  
refreshments**

**Meet other  
local Dads and  
have fun**



**For  
children  
aged 0-6**

## From our MP: Tom Tugendhat

As we approach the start of the next academic year in September, I, like every other parent, am preparing to send my children back to school after the long summer holidays. The next long break won't be until Christmas, of course. It will be here before we know it.

It means we are at the time of year in which I start accepting nominations for my annual Christmas Card competition.

Each year I meet thousands of people across Tonbridge, Edenbridge and North Downs Villages, as well as people in Parliament and abroad too. I always try and send as many Christmas Cards as I possibly can.

Given the creativity and imagination, I see from children in our area every time I visit a school, each year I invite entries to design the front cover of my Christmas Card from children in our area. If you have any children, grandchildren, friends or relatives who have a talent for art and would like to apply, I would like to hear from you.

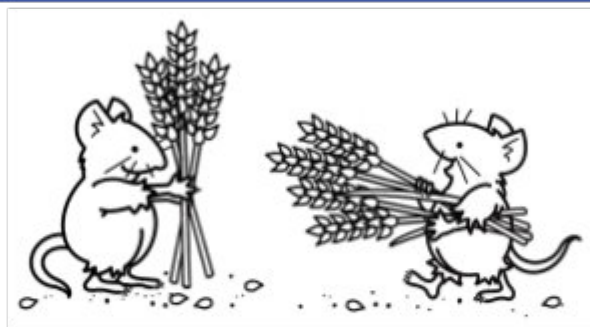
Drawings must be A4, portrait or landscape. It would be great to have a Christmas theme. The winning design and three highly commended entries will also receive 100 blank copies of their own card, and I will invite them to meet me and have a tour of the Houses of Parliament with their parents.

The deadline for entries is the end of October, so the cards can be printed, signed and posted to arrive before 25 December. Please do post entries to my office (address below).

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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.tonbridgeu3a.uk).

**Ollie Johnson**

## Hildenborough Cricket Club



Hildenborough's bowlers combined to help the club record their 10<sup>th</sup> win of the season beating Wrotham St George by 46 runs. They triggered an opposition collapse, claiming six wickets for seven runs from 112-4 to 119 all out - Paul Herbert 2-19, Barry Webb 2-10 and Mark Skinner the other in his only over of the reply.

Herbert enjoyed a good debut for the club, hitting 45 in a total of 165-8 in 35 overs. Neil Pickford was another newcomer with runs and wickets on debut. He hit 52 and took

3-29 in the 23 run win at Farningham. He and Greg Smith (48) shared a century stand, before JP Martens (27 not out) and Barry Webb (22 not out) saw them home. Inspired fielding was also key as the hosts slipped from 107-3 to 158 all out - Webb followed up his figures of 3-8 with four catches, Mark Davies two and wicket-keeper Smith claimed another and a stumping.

Smith was in good form again the previous week in a 23-run win over Teston and Mereworth with two catches, a stumping and a run-out. The Maidstone villagers were 51-0, needing 162 to win, but lost wickets regularly until their seventh wicket pair added 58 in seven overs. Richard Sparks ended their resistance,

with the final two batsmen falling quickly - Webb with three wickets, Sparks and Matt Richards with two.

Hildenborough put into bat made a good start. Smith (69 retired not out) shared in stands of 107 with Mark Davies (37) and 36 with Martens (21) in a total of 161-6 in 35 overs.

The match at Leigh was washed out but the club hope to meet them again next season.

September fixtures:

7/9: Wateringbury (A)

14/9: Capel (A)

21/9: Brasted Invicta (H)

28/9 Kilndown (A)

*Pete Wood*

## Hildenborough History Society

### *Memories are timeless treasures of the heart*

Some of the richest memories are held in a person's heart and mind. Yet if not articulated and passed on or recorded, they can so easily lay fallow or even be forgotten

What would you like to pass on, maybe even leave behind for the next generation?

Whose memories & experiences would you like shared?

Hildenborough History Society would like to hear from you and how we can help you to collect, record and share memories from our local area.

***Tony Atkinson, chairman***

**Atkinsontony@btinternet.com**



# **T.M.B.C. News**

## **Local Plan.**

It has to be said, this is taking some time, however we are moving forward; later this year a new Regulation 18 will be undertaken. Regulation 18, part of Town and Country (Local Planning)

Regulations 2012, focuses on engaging with residents and other stakeholders to gather feedback; this will help shape the Draft Local Plan.

I will draw your attention to the forthcoming Land Availability Assessment (LAA). For Hildenborough this will be crucial. For a very long time the Metropolitan Green Belt (MGB) surrounding Hildenborough has not suffered any great development, there have been a few peripheral in-fills, but nothing that you would call major. I get the feeling seeing the plan of suggested sites, this could change. Not all sites submitted in the call-in will make it through, but there is a very rough figure of about 2,876 houses required to be built within Hildenborough, this figure is NOT definite, but TMBC must build 1,090 buildings per year up to 2040 and they will need spreading out over the Borough. Please see the TMBC website; all details of the emerging Local Plan are under the planning ribbon.

## **Planning Again.**

At the last Area 1 planning committee I was outvoted by all of Area 1. We were discussing an application to demolish a single bungalow and replace with two contemporary modern designs using traditional materials. I thought the new buildings would be incongruous to the street scene, so I was able to call the application to committee. I fully admit the applicant spoke very well and put an extremely robust argument forward. The design of something can be subjective, so say TMBC planning officers. Our very short land supply is also a factor to be taken into account when deciding applications. One benefit of approving

applications at committee is that they can be better controlled, as opposed to losing at appeal and the Inspector not seeing the application quite as we see it.

## **King Hill Offices.**

Work is currently being undertaken in the newer Council offices to accommodate all staff and provide a new Council Chamber. A decision is to be taken regarding future use of the former officers mess building, the Gibson building.

## **Drainage Board.**

The Lower Medway Internal Drainage Board is to merge with the North Kent Marshes Water Internal Drainage Board to form North Kent Marshes Water Level Management Board. We are assured of Greater efficiency, Enhanced resilience, Improved service delivery and Increased transparency and accountability. The Borough Councils levy for the LMIDB for 2025/26 is £245,564, will have to watch that figure after merger.

## **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](mailto:Kath.Barton@tmbc.gov.uk)

Mark Rhodes 01732 369 405  
39 Cranford Road, Tonbridge  
[mark.rhodes@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:mark.rhodes@tmbc.gov.uk)

TMBC - 01732 844 522

#### Kent County Councillor

Harry Rayner 03000 421 606  
[harry.rayner@kent.gov.uk](mailto:harry.rayner@kent.gov.uk)

Contact the Parish Council via  
[clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
or by telephone (07818 329 029)

Hildenborough PC, Riding Lane,  
Hildenborough, TN11 9HY

## Kent Fraud Alert System



### 🔥 Winter Heating Allowance Scam 🔥

We are warning residents of Kent to be on high alert for a **fraudulent text message** claiming to be from the **Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)** regarding the **Winter Heating Allowance** for 2025–2026.

#### What to watch out for:

The scam text message may say: *"Winter Heating Subsidy Reminder: You are eligible to apply. Please update your information via the link."* It may include a **fake deadline** (example: "apply by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025") to create urgency. The link provided often mimics a government website but is **not genuine** (example: [gov.winterpaymentdu.top](http://gov.winterpaymentdu.top)). Victims are asked to enter **personal or financial details**, which are then used for fraud.

#### Remember:

The **genuine Winter Fuel Payment** is **automatically issued** to eligible individuals. **No application is required** in most cases. The **DWP will never** ask you to apply via unofficial links or third-party websites. Always check information directly at: [www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment](http://www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment)

#### If you receive a suspicious text message:

**Do NOT click any links** or **respond** to suspicious text messages

**Report** it by forwarding the text message to **7726**

**Report** scams to **Action Fraud** at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk).

Stay safe!

*Emily Jenner (Kent Police, Prevent And Protect Fraud Officer, Prevent And Protect Fraud Team)*



## Crafty weeds

Weeds are very clever at finding places to grow. They like the same conditions that you provide for your vegetables and flowers to do well. Most weeds can find ways to prosper by getting as much seed as possible onto your freshly planted garden. Some weeds rely on making lots of seeds and scattering them at random. Often, they rely on the wind, so their seeds grow with a parachute attached. Some weeds wait until the weather is just right then they release their seeds in a tiny explosion to keep the new plants in the right kind of soil, the soil the parent plant is in.

There are weeds that do not rely only on one way to have successful offspring. Weeds like the *Enchanter's nightshade* (right) makes sure that its offspring are scattered far and wide. This has an advantage as being surrounded by your offspring can get rather overcrowded. This seed has hooks that catches on the fur of passing animals and which will carry them far and wide until the host stops to preen its fur and the Enchanter nightshade can scatter to grow in a new patch. Just to make sure that the plant survives the efforts of the gardener, it has weak roots that will snap off when the parent is pulled up and every little bit of root will be able to grow.



Some of the most difficult weeds are those that you have planted by accident. Many of the flowering plants in our gardens had ancestors as weeds. The Botanists can produce a new plant by altering the genetics of a weed. Silver weed (below) has leaves that are silver in colour and yellow flowers. It looks good but it spreads by runners that produce roots wherever the runner touches the soil. This can be a nuisance if the runners are in your lawn.



One thing that weeds cannot do is to grow in straight lines so this is where the gardener can get the upper hand. If you sow your seeds in neat rows, then the seedling which come up are your plants but if they are not in the row then they are weeds and need to go.

***George Gorham***



## Cycling in Hildenborough and Kent

There are numerous initiatives, year on year, to try and encourage people to make more use of bikes for transport. Benefits such as “greener for the planet”, “good for your health and fitness” and “saving money” are thrown at us all. However, the reality is that there is simply not enough infrastructure to make cycling completely safe and viable. Cycle paths are uneven and not maintained, the edges of roads are strewn with overgrown vegetation, sunken manholes, potholes and poorly repaired roadworks, and paths criss-crossing roads bring yet more danger for everyone.

Cycling in countries such as the Netherlands is welcomed and planned to be safe and separate from motorised vehicles. Such layouts do not exist in our village, nor in virtually any area of Kent. It is little wonder that new cyclists are not keen to venture out into the big wide world that is TN11. This situation is not likely to improve in the future, unfortunately, and only greater tolerance from everyone – drivers, cyclists and pedestrians can make things easier and safer for all.

Cycling can be an enjoyable activity, out in the fresh air and getting moderate exercise. Children can still get proper training to stand them in good stead for the future, and there are some off-road tracks that can be used. The tarmac road through Westwood is a good safe starting place for juniors. Wearing visible clothing is a must, and suitable bike lighting can only help – it is vital in the dark. As with most things in life, providing a sound foundation will pay dividends later in life.

*David Haugh*



### 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*

## Get a Grip: Boosting Lifespan with Strength Training

It seems there's more to life than just keeping a stiff upper lip, especially if you want to increase it. Recent research suggests that grip strength—a.k.a. your ability to open stubborn marmalade jars—is a better predictor of longevity than traditional metrics like blood pressure or cardiovascular fitness. Yes, the science now says gripping onto life can indeed help you hold onto life!



**Research Spotlight:** A study hailed in various health circles claims that participants with better grip strength are likely to enjoy a longer life. This metric seemingly surpasses even the most rigorous cardiovascular regimens in predictive power. It's food for thought—a healthier diet might indeed give you more to grip!

Now, assuming you'd rather not spend the rest of your days opening pickle jars, here are three effective ways to enhance your grip strength:

**Hang In There:** Engage in dead hangs—literally hanging by your arms—whether it be from a pull-up bar or even a sturdy door frame (home DIY experts, please check your handiwork first). This technique is as literal as it is effective and will have you clamouring for more. Plus, it's a stellar way to develop functional strength.

**Keep Calm and Carry Heavy Stuff:** Carrying heavy weights is a straightforward yet potent method for building functional grip strength. Whether it's the groceries or kettlebells, carrying heavy loads isn't just for strongmen—it's for anyone aiming to add robustness and longevity to their daily life.

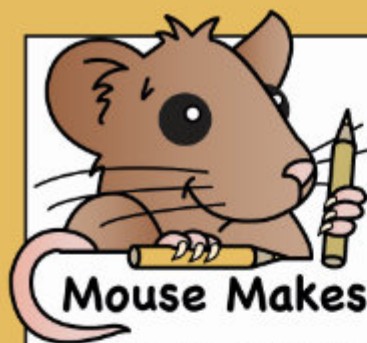
**Bootcamp Breakouts:** For a whole-body experience, consider joining one of our local bootcamps. While your instructor guides you to press and pull with precision, we incorporate grip strength into fun, challenging workouts. And no, you don't have to be fit already—just show up in your trainers and enthusiasm!

Incorporating any of these methods into your weekly routine could prove priceless for your health. Remember, it's not just about the size of your muscles, but how they help you grip onto this glorious gift of life a bit longer.

For more information or to take a free trial contact us via our Facebook page [Hildenborough Outdoor Fitness](#).

**Justin Jones**





## Mouse Makes

"May the people **praise** you **God**...  
The **land yields** its harvest, God,  
our God **blesses** us."  
- from Psalm 67:5-6

"Let us fear and respect the Lord our God.  
He gives **autumn** and **spring** rains  
at the right time. He makes sure that we  
have the harvest at just the right **time**."  
- from Jeremiah 5:24

"**Honour** the  
**Lord** with your  
wealth and the  
first part of  
your **harvest**."  
- Proverbs 3:9

"God... gives you **rain** from  
heaven and good harvests  
at the right times. He gives  
you plenty of **food** and  
fills your hearts with **joy**."  
- from Acts 14:16-17

"So the one who **plants** is not  
important, and the one who **waters**  
is not important. Only **GOD** is  
important because He is the one  
who makes things **grow**."  
- 1 Corinthians 3:7

D	E	B	R	E	A	D	C	R	O	P	S
A	P	L	A	N	T	S	G	T	I	M	E
S	L	O	I	J	B	P	R	A	I	S	E
C	O	R	N	O	L	R	A	H	G	O	D
A	U	D	H	Y	E	I	I	A	S	L	S
T	G	R	O	W	S	N	N	R	O	W	E
T	H	A	N	K	S	G	I	V	I	N	G
E	F	U	O	W	E	Y	I	E	L	D	S
R	O	T	U	T	S	I	L	S	O	W	O
M	O	U	R	U	R	W	A	T	E	R	S
D	M	A	B	A	R	N	P	I	C	K	
S	U	N	F	I	E	L	D	R	E	A	P

Find the words in **bold** type in the bible quotes in the  
wordsearch then look for the words below too!

PLOUGH • FIELD • SOIL • SCATTER • SOW • SEEDS • SUN  
REAP • PICK • CROPS • GRAIN • CORN • BARN • BREAD • THANKSGIVING



## Crossword clues

### Across

1 'A little later someone else saw Peter and said, "You — are one of them"' (Luke 22:58) (4)

3 Giving (1 Peter 2:5) (8)

9 They came to Jerusalem seeking an infant king (Matthew 2:7) (3,4)

10 'An athlete... does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the — ' (2 Timothy 2:5) (5)

11 Pacifist, temperance advocate, open-air preacher, leading 20th-century Methodist, Donald — (5)

12 'Come quickly to — , O Lord my Saviour' (Psalm 38:22) (4,2)

14 'The God of Abraham, — — , the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus' (Acts 3:13) (5,3,5)

17 Sear by intense heat (Revelation 16:8) (6)

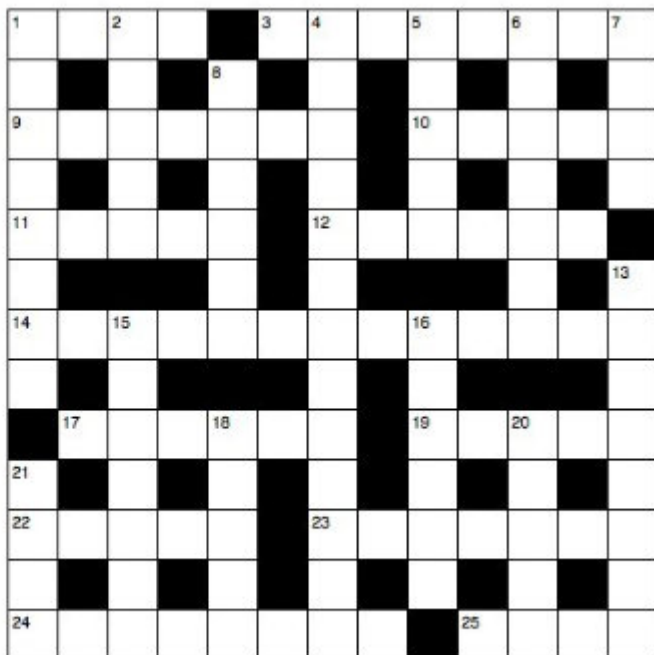
19 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust — — ' (Psalm 118:8) (2,3)

22 Goods (Nehemiah 13:15) (5)

23 i.e. train (anag.) (7)

24 Surrounding area (Luke 24:50) (8)

25 'Righteousness will be his — and faithfulness the sash round his waist' (Isaiah 11:5) (4)



### Down

1 Elegant and creative (Exodus 31:4) (8)

2 'Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all — , but we will all be changed' (1 Corinthians 15:51) (5)

4 'I... delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your — — — is' (Colossians 2:5) (5,2,6)

5 Enlist (2 Samuel 24:2) (5)

6 Of the Muslim faith (7)

7 Sharp intake of breath (Job 11:20) (4)

8 Woven cloth (Ezekiel 16:13) (6)

13 Plentiful (Romans 5:17) (8)

15 CIA char (anag.) (7)

16 Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an earthquake in Philippi (Acts 16:27–28) (6)

18 One of the ingredients in the making of incense for the Lord (Exodus 30:34) (5)

20 Episcopal headwear (5)

21 Inhabitant of, say, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria (4)

## Wordsearch

weakest

helping

stole

Baal

tribe

Midianites

fight

rude

Israelites

altar

complain

night

food

power

God

clan

hide

grown

angel

upset

secretly

warrior

Gideon

messages

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

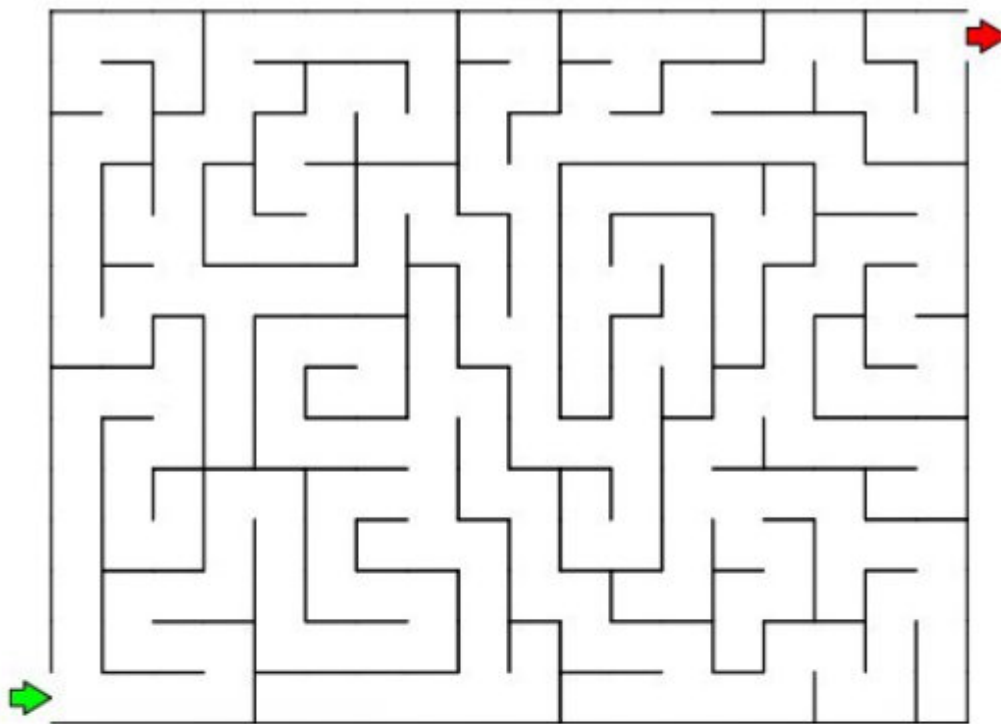
## Sudoku - easy and medium puzzles

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

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

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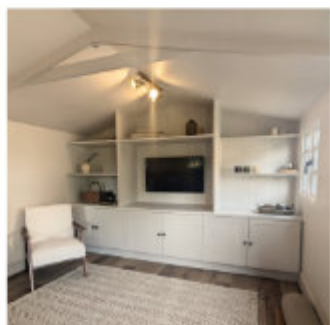
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Cynthia Fawcus **01732 833 397**  
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Miss Lorna Stapley - **07960 174 789**  
**hildenboroughbeavers8thtonbridgescouts@hotmail.com**  
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Sharon Roberts - **07960 782 178**  
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Hildenborough Amateur Dramatics  
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**managerhildenboroughfm@gmail.com**  
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Tracy Chandler **01732 838 353**  
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Note that parents are not eligible if either of them has adjusted net income in excess of £100,000 for the current tax year.

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