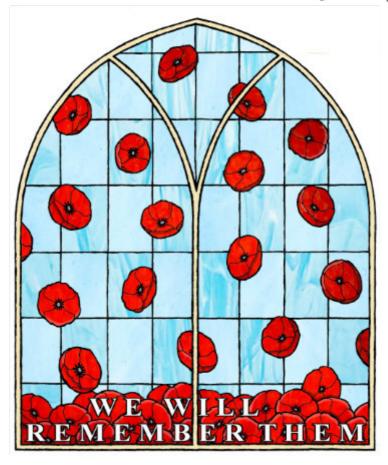


NOV 2025

Remembrance Service - Sun 9th 10am St John's Christmas Fair - Sat 29th 1-6pm



Hildenborough Road Races - Volunteer Committee needed - see page 15

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From the Church

Remembrance is more than memory — it is love in action.

Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, that

someone lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). At Remembrance Day services we remember with love, those who gave so much in the past in the service of others. We are also saying we refuse to forget the cost of that service and sacrifice. True remembrance invites us to live differently - to let the lessons of the past shape our choices today, so that remembering leads us toward peace, patience, and dialogue. We also recognise there are moments when peace and patience fail, and nations must take up arms in defence of what is right. Even then, lessons from the past remain our guide: we do not fight because we want to, but because we must; and only as a last resort.

For many today, the First and Second World Wars can feel distant. Yet the peace we enjoy was paid for in blood, sacrifice, and immense courage. We also remember those who served in more recent conflicts, Korea, the Falklands, the Gulf, Afghanistan, and others. Their names may not appear on every local memorial, but their bravery is just as real.

Not all who served lost their lives. Many returned home with lasting wounds - both physical and unseen. The mental health struggles and trauma faced by countless veterans remind us that the cost of war does not end when the fighting stops. The same was true after the world wars: behind each uniform was a person living with the echoes of conflict long after the guns fell silent. Love that remembers

holds them close too - those still living with the cost of service.

Why do we remember in love those who made such great sacrifices?

Because love refuses to forget. Love looks back with gratitude and forward with purpose. It reminds us that freedom was never free, and peace was never cheap. The lessons of the past must guide our choices today, teaching us to seek peace first. Love keeps us choosing dialogue, understanding, and reconciliation over conflict and division.

Real remembrance changes how we live. Love that remembers requires action; it calls us to learn from the past so we can make a difference today. Real courage does not rush to conflict - it resists it. It takes great strength and courage to build bridges rather than burn them. The courage we honour in those who served reminds us that peace also demands bravery - the kind that holds steady when anger would be easier, and seeks understanding when vengeance feels justified. The easy path is often the loud one; the harder path can be the quiet work of reconciliation, dialogue, and diplomacy. That same spirit of courage is found not only on battlefields, but in every heart that dares to hope, reconcile, and keep loving when conflict would be easier.

When we let love shape our remembering, gratitude becomes something we live each day. Our memories become a driving force for kindness, compassion, and peace; and give us courage to seek what is good and right, even when peace feels fragile.

We warmly invite you to join us for our Remembrance Service at St John's Church, Hildenborough, on Sunday 9 November at 10 a.m.

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.

Office Hours - Monday to Friday 10am till 4pm

Role	Name	Contact Details			
Vicar	Rev Tim Saiet	07973 136 968 tim@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk			
Children and Youths Pastor	Lisa Glasscote	lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk			
Church Administrator	Emma Joynson- Hicks	01732 833 596 office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk			
Church Volunteers					
Lay Readers	Trevor Long	07513 420 509			
Warden (Acting)	Steve Wood	stevewood@stjohnshildenborough. co.uk			
Treasurer	Rich Lake	07579 210 122 treasurer@stjohnshildenborough. co.uk			
Safeguarding	Kate Lake	07579 821 956 safeguarding@stjohnshildenborough. co.uk			
Church Centre Bookings	Cynthia Fawcus	01732 833 397 cynthia@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk			
Foodbank and Warm Hub	Denise Netherton	07942 148 175 denise@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk			
Archivist	Howard Dolling	07876 451 168			
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Distribution	Clem Giles	01732 833 543 clemgiles@hotmail.com			
Advertising	Liz Ridley	advertising@keysmagazine.co.uk			

WHATS ON IN NOVEMBER?



Church Services	What's On?				
Sunday 9 November 10am	Remembrance Service				
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?				
Wednesday 5 November	Prayer & Praise				
7.30pm in the Church	2000 - ROSE ROSE ROSE ROSE ROSE ROSE ROSE ROSE				
10 – 17 November	Operation Christmas Child				
Church Centre	Christmas shoebox collection at the Church Centre				
Regular community event	S				
Monday - weekly	Bright Sparks Toddler Group				
10-11.45am Church Centre £3/family.	A fun filled haven for little ones providing a safe space for play and a chance for carers and parents to connect.				
Tuesday - weekly	Food Bank				
11am -1pm, weekly Church Centre	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.				
Wednesday 12 November	Forget-me-not Café				
11am – 12.30	Whilst some of those who come to the café live with dementia,				
Church Centre	others may have memory loss or care for a person with dementia.				
2 nd Wednesdayof the month	Joinus for coffee and cake.				
Wednesday - from 1 October	Warm Hub				
12-2pm, Church Centre	Freehomemade soup & bread roll, tea & coffee. All welcome.				
Thursday & Friday 9am – 2pm Church Centre	Angel Café A welcoming space for all ages, perfect for a delicious treat and a chat.				
Saturday 1 November	Who let the dads out?				
9.30am-11am, Church Centre 1st Saturdayof the month	A fantastic opportunity to meet other dads, enjoy great food and share the joys and challenges of fatherhood.				
Children & YoungPeople	What's On?				
Sunday	Generation Creation				
9.15-10.30am	For primary school aged children and young people years 6 and				
Term time only	above. Start in the church and move to the Church Centre.				
Sunday 8 November &	The HIVE Youth Group				
Sunday 22 November	For school years 6-13, £1 per session				
Church Centre					
Future Dates	What's On?				
Saturday 29 November	Christmas Fair				
1pm –6pm, Church Centre	Food & drink, FatherChristmas Grotto, arts & crafts stalls				
Wednesday 10 December	Dementia Friendly Carol Service				



At our October café we welcomed Neil Mack as our entertainer. He had not been to the Hildenborough café before, so we were not sure what to expect. Neil did not disappoint and is an

incredibly versatile entertainer singing Sinatra and Roy Orbison and many more. He plays the electric guitar, and the highlight of his set was playing the electric fiddle. We were all clapping and jigging about as he played Riverdance and then the "Devil went down to Georgia" which finished with everyone giving him a huge cheer.

Date for your diary is our December café, Wednesday 10th December, this will be the St. John's Church Traditional Dementia Friendly Carol Service which will be in the Church followed by coffee and mince pies in the Church Centre. Everyone is welcome to come to this to support those living with dementia. It will be well known carols, a reading and prayers. Please come along for an 11.00 am start.

The Forget me not Café is on the second Wednesday of the month. We meet at 11.00 am – 12.30pm in the Family Room.

Forget -menot Cafés



10 Years 2015 - 2025

Companionship over a cuppa



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 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 about the Forget me not Cafés or would like to be put on the mailing list for the monthly programme of all the Cafés in the area, please contact Elaine on <u>forgetmenot</u>. <u>sadfc@gmail.com</u> or 07946 534 476.

Julie Rhodes

From the Parish records Funerals

17 October 2025 the funeral of John Abbott

21 October 2025 Daphne Dorling buried 24 October 2025 the funeral of Eric Wadswoth

30 October 2025 the remains of Marion and Ralph Cooke will be interred.





Come and enjoy homemade soup and good conversation in a warm and welcoming play space. Wednesdays from 12 pm.

All are welcome – we'd love to see you there!





St John's Christmas Fair Arts and Craft Stalls





















Saturday 29th November 1pm till 6pm At St John's **Church Centre**



















Christmas Fair -Sat 29th November Live Music Artists

Alisa and Keys

A fun, versatile and talented acoustic duo performing a wide range of covers as well as heart-felt originals. Featuring singer/songwriter Alisa Jaffa on vocals, with Neil on piano/keyboard and acoustic guitar. Examples include Amy Winehouse, Texas, Neil Young, Alanis Morissette, Olivia Dean and lots more.





Bella Canto

Bella Canto bring the season to life with a programme of cherished carols and timeless Christmas songs. With voices that blend in graceful harmony, this talented duo captures the warmth, beauty, and spirit of Christmas.

Tonbridge Community Singers

Since its founding in 2011—originally as the Hillview Community

Choir—Tonbridge
Community Singers (TCS)
has grown into a welcoming
and supportive group of
music lovers meeting weekly
at St Peter & St Paul Church
in Tonbridge during school
terms. The choir enjoys
rehearsing and performing a
vibrant mix of musicals, pop,
classic, and gospel songs,



celebrating the joy of singing and community. For details about joining or performances, please email <u>tonbridgecommunitysingers@gmail.</u> com.





Operation Christmas Child - allows people to pack a shoebox of gifts and have it transported around the world to give a gift to a child in need.

What can go in a shoebox? Examples include cuddly toys, personal care items, school supplies and fun gifts. Cuddly toys, pens, stampers, craft kits, toothbrushes, compact mirrors.

You can pick up an empty shoebox at St John's Church Centre along with leaflets on how to fill a box.

The collection window for the boxes is 10th to 17th November. Help make a child's Christmas this year. - Operation Christmas Child is run by Samaritans Purse

What's 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!

Lonely and in need of a chat? Check out the Chatty Table at Angel Café on Friday (term times) 11am - 1pm. www.angelcafe.org.uk

Angel Café is a community Café run from St John's Church Centre on a Thursday and Friday.

Chatty Café is a UK wide initiative to help combat loneliness. We reserve a table and have a volunteer available to chat to, so please come down say hi and let's have a chat.



Sevenoaks Symphony Orchestra – 25/26 season with a season ticket scheme

Saturday 16th November - 3pm STAG theatre in Sevenoaks.

Schumann: Manfred Overture, Sibelius: Violin Concerto in D minor (soloist Mikhail Andreev) & Brahms: Symphony No 1 in C minor.

We open with **Schumann's** *Manfred Overture* (1848), the finest part of his incidental music to Lord Byron's poem.

Next, the demanding **Sibelius** *Violin Concerto*, his only concerto for the instrument, showcasing an inspired blend of solo and orchestral writing. We welcome local talent, 13-year-old **Mikhail Andreev** from Guildford (winner of the Croydon Concerto Competition), as our soloist.

The concert closes with **Brahms's Symphony No 1** in **C** minor. This monumental work, which took over twenty years to perfect, brilliantly combines **Classical form** and **Romanticism**, providing a powerful end to the evening. Don't miss this fine start to the new season!

The Oast Theatre - "QUARTET" By Ronald Harwood 8th November - 15th November 2025

This uplifting comedy is set in a retirement home for musicians, where four former opera stars must navigate old tensions and the challenges of age as they attempt to reunite for one last performance: the quartet from Verdi's Rigoletto.

Explore themes of aging, companionship, and the enduring power of art in the play that inspired the hit film starring Maggie Smith. A guaranteed brilliant evening!

Performances: 8:00 PM (Sunday 3:00 PM) Tickets: £14. Book: www.oasttheatre.com or call 0333 666 33 66 (booking fee applies)

Hildenborough Conservation Group - West Wood Coppicing

We will undertake the annual coppicing in West Wood in November. This takes place on the first four Saturdays in November (1st, 8th,16th and 22nd this year).

We meet at 10am and finish around 4pm. Instruction on tool usage and coppicing techniques will be given by experienced group members. Children under 10 years must be accompanied and supervised by a parent or guardian. Children under 16 years must have written permission from a parent or guardian.

Sausages are cooked over the fire embers at lunchtime so bring some and rolls if you wish to partake. You will get mucky and smoky so old clothes are a must.

Contact: Lynne Flower 01732 355 080

Tonbridge Music Club (TMC) – Saturday 2nd November 11am Somerhill (Music Suite)

Our performers will be winners of TMC's Award Scheme, now in its fourth year. The Awards Scheme is for young musicians who either live in Tonbridge or attend school in the Tonbridge area and offers them grants which enable them to meet musical costs. This might be new equipment, the cost of lessons, exam fees etc. This year, we offered a top award of \pounds 1,000.

For more information about these, and other, TMC concerts this season, or to buy tickets, please go to www.tmc.org.uk. If you prefer to book tickets or make enquiries by 'phone, then please call 01732 356 980.

Sevenoaks Philharmonic Choir with Sevenoaks Philharmonic Orchestra - 3:00 PM, Sunday 30th November Pamoja Concert Hall, Sevenoaks School

Join us to celebrate the 80th birthday of John Rutter with performances of his glorious Mass of the Children and Te Deum. Conducted by Robyn Sevastos, the choir and orchestra will be joined by the Senior Choir from Weald of Kent Grammar School (who will also perform a separate set). As it's Advent Sunday, the programme will be completed with additional music for Advent.

Tickets: £17 (£16 over 60s, £5 students/U21) + £1 booking fee.

thespacesevenoaks.co.uk/whatson Phone: 01732 467 765.

The Oast Theatre - "THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE" Adaptation by Glyn Robbins - 12th - 14th and 18th - 20th December.

Performances: 7.00 p.m. with additional matinees at 2.00 p.m. on 13th, 14th and 20th December. Tickets: £14 Students £10 Book online at www.oasttheatre.com or on the phone 0333 666 33 66 (booking fee applies)





and is happy to talk to anyone about it and to hand out the latest issue if you do not receive it.



The Market has been busy over the last month and as I am writing we are looking forward to turning the Market pink on the 21st October in support of breast cancer (photos in December's Keys issue) and to having some children's activities during half term.

When coming to the Market you may have noticed that some weeks, we have members of our community services visit to give free advice and discuss any problems that may be affecting residents.

We have recently welcomed PC Thomas Mead from the Tonbridge Community Safety Unit who was happy to listen to residents' concerns and give advice about local safety matters.

Our new Parish Clerk from the Hildenborough Parish Council, Louise Jenner, also visited to encourage residents to complete the Hildenborough Parish Community Survey so that opinions can be passed to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council. Sometimes other Parish Councillors drop in to speak to anyone who has concerns or problems that they may be able to help with.

And last but not least, you may have seen Rob Mansfield, a regular visitor on the first Tuesday of the month giving free financial guidance, his banner reads "there are no silly questions". He lives in Hildenborough and has set up his own company — Rootes Wealth Management — you can see his advert in this magazine. Rob is also the Editor of Keys Magazine

Some of our stallholders come weekly, others monthly but there are times when due to holidays or unforeseen circumstances, illness or car breakdown, the stallholders cannot attend. Follow us on social media for a list of expected stallholders.

Looking for a Christmas gift with a difference? Why not give Market Gift Vouchers which can be purchased at the Market. The vouchers start at £5 and can be bought in multiples for as much as you like.

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

Also follow us on social media for your weekly update on what stalls will be at the Market.

We are open from 8.30am to 11.00 am every Tuesday at the Hildenborough Village Hall in Riding Lane.

Could You Help Keep a Village Tradition Alive?

Meet the volunteer – Amy Pay -Race Director of the Hildenborough Road Races

How many hours a week do you spend doing it? This really varies - typically work starts to trickle in around November time (admin and first committee meeting) and then this slowly builds until May - race day. No mistaking - there is a significant commitment and level of responsibility involved with this role but anyone considering taking it on, could lighten this load by organising a larger committee behind them.

What skills have you picked up in this role? Lots of practice chairing, organising, project managing and delivering a large event.

What is the best thing or your best memory about your role? Watching children run back to help their friends over the finish line.

New committee needed

This year, the Hildenborough Road Races marked a huge milestone - our 40th birthday! For four decades, the races have brought the village together on May Bank Holiday, with happy, smiley faces filling the streets and thousands raised for local causes. In fact, this year alone we donated over £6,000 to charities and groups in our community.

We'd like to take this moment to thank everyone who has ever been involved - from past committee members and marshals to volunteers and local supporters. Without your time, energy and enthusiasm, the races simply wouldn't have reached this special anniversary.

But for the races to continue, we now need new energy and fresh ideas. After many combined years at the helm, the current organising committee is stepping down. Without a new committee in place, this much-loved event cannot go ahead. Ideally, we recommend a team of at least six people to share the responsibility - there is no mistaking that it's a big commitment, but when managed well between enough people, it's not only very doable but incredibly rewarding.

As a committee member, you'll be helping to keep a special tradition alive, make a visible difference in the village and play a part in one of the happiest days of the year. It's also a chance to put your own stamp on the event, bringing fresh life and ideas to ensure it thrives for years to come.

We can offer plenty of guidance and support to help you settle into the role so if you've ever thought about giving something back to your community, now is the perfect time. Please don't let this much-loved tradition come to an end.

To find out more, please do get in touch with Amy at hildenroadrace@gmail.com by the end of November.

Amy Pay

Volunteer interview - your chance to feature! If you volunteer your time please get in touch with me at 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

The Half Moon Pub - a personal review

At one time or another Hildenborough has been home to 11 public houses. However, by the end of the second world war only 7 survived.

By 2010 this had reduced further to only 4 and sadly in 2019 the much-loved Cock Horse closed its doors for the last time.

Today only three remain, The Plough in Leigh Road, the Flying Dutchman and the Half Moon. The Half Moon, which we suppose we could term as our local, was first built in the sixteenth century, and parts are probably 500 years old. In the days when the mail went by coach, the horses were changed here, and it is rumoured that Dick Turpin visited the place on more than one occasion.

On Sunday, 27 October, 1940 at 8.30am, a Spitfire II, crashed in the grounds and the pilot was killed. In 1972 Malcolm Pettit, a local military enthusiast and amateur archaeologist, recovered the engine from waste ground behind the Half Moon. On 25th October 2015 a ceremony, organised by Hildenborough History Society, was held at the pub to unveil a bronze plaque in memory of the pilot, Pilot Officer John Romney Mather, of 66 Squadron, Gravesend. In the entrance to the pub there is a display of photos and memorabilia in commemoration of this tragic event.

In 2019 the pub was still a vibrant meeting place with a restaurant to rival any pub in the area. Unfortunately, in the years that followed there a have been a succession of managers/tenants, who have tried their best to retain the ambience and quality of food we had previously enjoyed but sadly to no avail. Since Covid, the pub has been open only sporadically with little or no food available. The fabric was looking tired and uninviting.

However, a couple of weeks ago following the closure of Hilden Manor, we were looking for somewhere to have an impromptu lunch, when in passing we noticed that the Half Moon was open and advertising food. So, on a whim we decided to take a chance and see if we could have a meal there. What a surprise, everywhere was bright and airy, the bar area, restaurant and summerhouse looked smart and inviting. We had the Sunday roast lunch, which was tasty, generous and well presented. The staff were all very friendly and efficient. It is now open 7 days a week, with food being served Wednesday to Sunday.

Why are we bothering to tell you all this, you may ask? Well, we are so pleased to have the Old Half Moon back and if we want to keep it, I would urge you to give it a try.

IF YOU DON'T USE IT, WE'LL LOSE IT.

We would add finally that this recommendation was entirely unsolicited.

Howard and Joy Dolling

Hildenborough Village Preservation Association – HVPA

https://hildenboroughvpa. wordpress.com/

Next Steps for the Local Plan

The Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Housing and Planning Scrutiny Select Committee is meeting on Tuesday 21 October 2025 to consider the Draft Local Plan which sets out proposed development sites across the borough.

Once agreed, a **public consultation** will launch and run for the statutorily required six-week period, between **Monday 10th November and Monday 22nd December 2025.**

For Hildenborough, the plan identifies Land off Stocks Green Road (site references 59653, 59615, 59692 and 68432) with a net yield of 629 dwellings, noted as a large potential strategic allocation.

What's next:

- HPVA will issue guidance shortly to residents on how to respond effectively.
- Look out for details of a public meeting hosted by the HPVA.
- Look out for the public consultation invite from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council.
- We will provide further direction once the consultation opens.

Contact: HPVA - hildenboroughvpa@gmail.com

Hildenborough Cricket Club



We said farewell to Mark Davies at the end of the season ahead of his move to Australia. He proved a fantastic servant to the club since first playing in 2019 and forged a very successful opening partnership with Greg Smith who joined a year later.

Mark helped improve the club's win ratio from 23% to 53% scoring nearly 2,800 runs in 85 games, taking 56 wickets - and the club wish him and his family well on their new adventure.

After two defeats Hildenborough finished the season with victory over new opponents -Maidstone village side Hunton Wanderers. It was the 13th win in 19 matches an excellent way to end a cracking season.

2025 stats:

Top batsman:

Mark Davies 473 runs - av 67.57

Leading bowler; Barry Webb - 27 wickets

Wicketkeeper: Greg Smith: 20 victims including seven catches and 12 stumpings.

Pete Wood

T.M.B.C. News

TMBC Local Plan.

A regulation 18 consultation runs from Monday November 10th for at least 4 weeks. The areas to be assigned for possible housing in Hildenborough Parish area and the Tonbridge part of Hildenborough ward are available to view on the TMBC website under Planning then Planning Policy Local Plan. I would urge you to inspect the maps. Hard copies should also be available at Tonbridge Castle.

There needs to be control for how our borough further develops. Securing a Local Plan is the single most important step Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council will make this decade to safeguard the future of our borough.

It's a decision members want to make jointly with everyone who cares about Tonbridge and Malling.

The plan's central objective is to deliver approximately 19,000 new homes over the next 18 years - a target set by the Government. But that's not all. This must be done while minimising impact on Greenfield areas, delivering environmental improvements and preserving the character of our towns and villages.

Delivering a Local Plan is the only way to meet these multiple challenges.

Without a plan, we face a free-for-all in which developers can submit applications to build almost anywhere. Even when we refuse planning permission, applicants may well win on appeal because no Local Plan is in place to steer development towards areas where it can be accommodated and is sustainable.

With a plan, we can take control of how our borough develops. We can ensure that the provision of new homes is managed to protect heritage areas and green spaces. A key element of the plan also deals with providing the infrastructure needed to ensure local transport links and services are in place to support a growing population.

Elected borough councillors will decide whether to adopt the Local Plan prior to it being considered by government inspectors. Many will face the conflicting pressures of meeting their obligation to deliver a plan while also facing pressure from those opposed to development.

However, saying no to development in general or pursuing parochial interests will weaken rather than strengthen our control. It's likely to simply stall the Local Plan process, leaving the door open to more speculative applications which harm our communities. Delivering a viable plan will require tough decisions in the interests of our whole borough and collective effort to find the best solution to the challenge we've been set.

This is not the final version of the plan; it's the start of a conversation about the future of our towns and villages. It will evolve in the light of further work to identify additional sites and the public comments we receive.

Members understand that the prospect of development will arouse strong feelings in areas affected. This is why members are consulting widely and will be listening to the feedback residents provide.

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 914 166 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

From our MP: Tom Tugendhat

All of us enjoy the quiet beauty of our countryside - the walks across the Downs/Weald, the still mornings, and the sense of calm that defines our corner of Kent. That's why the Government's decision to approve a second runway at Gatwick Airport will come as such a disappointment to so many of us.

We already live under busy flight paths that pass over Tonbridge, Edenbridge and nearby villages. Planes often trace their way over our homes, bringing the noise and environmental impact of international air travel right to our skies but we see little of the economic benefit. Much of this area is a designated National Landscape, recognised for its beauty and importance. If this were a motorway on the ground, it would never be approved. Yet Labour have chosen to push ahead with a motorway in the sky, ignoring the value of the countryside we all treasure.

I will continue to stand alongside the many local campaigners who have spent years working to defend our countryside and our communities. Growth in aviation should bring benefits to those who live nearby as well as to the industry itself - and at present, that balance has not been struck.

The airport stands to see a major increase in passenger numbers, but there remains no commitment to reinstate the direct rail link from Kent to Gatwick - something I believe should be in place before any expansion is allowed to operate. I made this point clearly at the public inquiry, along with the need for stricter limits on night flights, stronger protections from aircraft noise, and firm commitments to reduce the carbon impact of the airport. These are not unreasonable requests. They are essential safeguards for those of us who live beneath the flight paths and who already feel the strain of existing traffic in our skies.

E-mail – <u>tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.</u> uk

Phone - 01732 441563

Post – 130 Vale Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1SP

Website - www.tomtugendhat.org

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram -@tomtugendhat

Tom

Evening WI: Our October meeting started with our usual information sharing and general WI business. We talked about any upcoming events and ideas for meetings that we are planning as well as our next fund-raising activity.

The main part of our meeting was our Harvest supper; we shared some savoury and sweet treats bought in by the members and spent time chatting and completing a very tricky quiz that Liz set for us!

We had a really pleasant evening together rounded off with Penny reading us a couple of Autumnal, Harvest themed poems.

Our next meeting is *Tuesday 11th November 2025*, when Shelia Cather will be giving us a talk "A chat about Quilts".

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.

The Heart of the Community: Why Local Meeting Places Matter

In every town or village there are spaces that act as the beating heart of the community – places where people gather, talk and feel a sense of belonging. In Hildenborough this includes the church and village halls, their activities and cafés, the Riding Lane café, the library and our local public houses as well as the sporting and activity groups many of which are listed in Keys magazine. As many of us spend increasing amounts of time online and working from home the value of real-world meeting places has never been greater.

A welcoming community space is at the centre of this social fabric. More than just a place to sit down quietly on your own or with friends to enjoy a drink and maybe something to eat, they provide a peaceful and social environment where friendships are formed, ideas shared, and support networks quietly grow. It is where neighbours become friends and where community cohesion is built.

These spaces play an important role in sustaining community spirit during difficult times. Whether it is hosting charity events, offering a warm welcome to those who might otherwise feel isolated or simply meeting other people, these community spaces are where people turn when they need connection most.

It is vital to recognise and protect these shared community spaces – a case of use them or lose them. By supporting our local community spaces, we are investing not only in local businesses but in the social bonds that make our town and village communities stronger, more resilient and more welcoming places to live.

Paul Thompson

The Night Sky in Hildenborough – November 2025

Jupiter the gas giant, and in fact the solar system's largest planet, is making a welcome return to our evening skies this month. It rises at 9pm at the beginning of November but by the end it appears at 7pm thanks to the gradual rotation of the sky which leads to stars and slow-moving objects, such as Jupiter, rising approximately four minutes earlier each night.

If you want to find Jupiter in the early part of the month then look close to the horizon in the ENE after 10pm when it should be high enough for you to find. It is extremely bright and there is nothing of comparable brightness anywhere close by. As the month progresses it gains some extra height each night until, by the 30th it is almost due east, with an altitude of 25° by 10pm. A waning Moon is a few degrees north of Jupiter on the evening of the 9th.

Saturn is a different prospect though because it is considerably fainter than Jupiter which makes it more susceptible to being mistaken for a star. Don't forget though that stars are point sources of light and twinkle, but planets have discernible disks and do not twinkle, or scintillate, to give the effect its scientific name. It's true that stars are enormous but it's also true that they are immensely distant which causes them to appear as points of light.

A quick way to find Saturn exists in the first two days of the month because it lies close to the waxing Moon which is a little past first quarter. On November 1st Saturn lies a handful of degrees to the east (left) of the Moon, whilst on the 2nd the ringed planet is a similar distance to the southwest. If you need some extra help with identification, Saturn is due south with an altitude of 35° on the following dates and approximate times. At 8:45pm on the 5th, at 8pm on the 15th and at 7:30pm on the 25th.

Having disparaged the term "Supermoon" last month, I should warn you that on 5th November we will have the largest supermoon of the year. On that date our natural satellite will be precisely 357,218 km distant from us and will rise at 4pm. The Sun will be close to setting at that time so the sky will still be bright, but if you have the opportunity and the sky is clear, have a look as soon after moonrise as you can and then look several hours later and see if the Moon looks just as large as it did when it had just risen.

This year sees the 350th anniversary of the founding of the Royal Greenwich Observatory by King Charles II. However, it was never designed to be used for astronomical research in the strictest sense but was instead set up to improve navigation.

At the time it was comparatively easy to find your latitude when at sea by either observing the height of the Sun to find local noon or by measuring the altitude of the pole star at night. Finding longitude, however, was far more difficult and resulted in the loss of many ships and countless lives when the rudimentary methods for calculating distance and speed of ships went awry and they ran aground.

The observatory was set up to provide vastly more accurate star maps than were currently available at the time and to carefully measure the position of the Moon. It was hoped that once these two things were done it would be possible to calculate positions at sea from the proximity of the Moon to certain stars. This was known as the lunar distance method and the Nautical Almanac was printed annually to provide mariners with the tables of data that were needed to make the calculations which could take up to four hours!

Brian Mills FRAS

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

Footpath Construction in Hildenborough

Exciting developments are underway for the Hildenborough community as construction is set to begin on a new footpath encircling the recreational ground. The project, aimed at enhancing accessibility and enjoyment of the area, will be carried out in stages and is subject to weather conditions.

Residents are advised to take precautions during the construction period. When machinery is present on-site, dogs should be kept on leads, and parking availability may be reduced due to increased equipment in the area.

The initiative has been made possible through partial funding from the S106 development contributions received from the Berkeley Homes development, alongside a generous donation from Hildenborough Village Hall. Local Councillors have expressed gratitude for

the support from Hildenborough Village Hall that will bring this valuable community asset to life.

In addition to the footpath, drainage improvements are planned for the Village Green.
Verti-drain® and sanding of the area

will hopefully improve surface water during the wetter months. However, the good news comes with a note of concern. The Pavilion has recently experienced a rise in vandalism, with new graffiti tags appearing on windows and damage to benches where designs have been scratched and painted into surfaces. We are urging residents to report any suspicious activity to help preserve the space.

Local Plan Consultation Coming Soon – Have Your Say on Tonbridge and Malling's Future

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council (TMBC) is preparing to launch a public consultation on its Draft Local Plan, a vital document that will guide future development, housing, infrastructure, and environmental planning across the borough.

The Draft Local Plan is currently under review by the Housing and Planning Scrutiny Select Committee, which meets on Tuesday 21 October 2025. If Councillors agree to proceed, the formal

public consultation is expected to begin in mid-November 2025.

Where to Find More Information

To view key documents and follow updates, visit the TMBC website and search

for the Housing and Planning Scrutiny Select Committee.



Hildenborough Parish Council Invites Residents to Share Their Views

The Hildenborough Parish Council is calling on all residents to take part in a community-wide survey aimed at shaping the future of the village. Whether you're

an individual. a family, or part of a local group, your input is vital to help guide decisions and priorities for the area. The survey has been promoted through last month's Keys magazine, social media channels, and leaflets distributed to households. If vou haven't vet had your say, now's the time.

For those who prefer a paper version, printed copies are available upon request. Simply contact the Parish Clerk at **07818 329029** or email

clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Completed paper surveys can be returned to the Parish Council's green post box, located at the rear of the Pavilion Building on Riding Lane. Let's build a better Hildenborough—

Let's build a better Hildenborough– together.

Hildenborough Parish Council

QUICK SURVEY

Complete our short Hildenborough Parish Community Survey about the TMBC Local Plan and help influence the future of Hildenborough for all.

TMBC have created a Local Plan for Hildenborough that is due to be Published in October 2025, outlining their vision for delivering several new housing sites in the Parish.



Filling in our survey gives your Parish Council the opportunity to inform TMBC of your views, so that we may influence the development in the area.

Your parish, your view, your voice - it really matters!

Scan the QR code to access the survey or use the following link: https://bit.ly/HPCsurvey25

If you would like a paper copy of the survey please contact the Parish Clerk on: 07818 329029

Wordsearch

November is a wistful month, tinged with sadness and good-byes. The last of the leaves are falling, as the trees go to sleep for winter. It is a month of remembrance, of poppies, of remembering lost loved ones, and of letting go. It is a month of bonfires for the 'Guy', and Thanksgiving for Americans. It is a month of remembering Saints and looking forward to triumph - the church year ends with the joyful Sunday of Christ the King. And then Advent begins...looking forward to a very special Baby!

poppies remembrance courage bravery Flanders

dead guns war peace Afghanistan

Iraq thanksgiving Turkey all saints

advent leaves sadness angel Mary

Elizabeth bonfire gunpowder guy ESYRVGYRAACNYA NSGOBO 1 U 1 GZDΑU KSBONF RMSES N F S F NAO BAFDRAWA Н G ANS KNAG K AHSZ A BYUGNQANEAD

Hildenborough Tennis Club has had an excellent summer in the Kent League, we entered 5 teams.

Men's team, won division 9B and won the division final against Shooters Hill rubbers

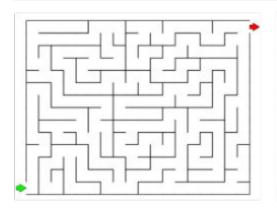
Mixed team won division7A and lost the division final against Margate rubbers 1-3.

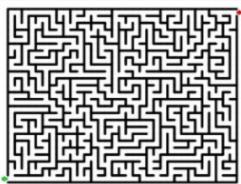
Both teams will be promoted next summer.

Our other teams - Ladies came second in division 7A and our midweek mens vets and mixed vets had mixed results!

The Winter League starts in October but if anyone would like to play fun or competitive tennis, please contact the club or our coaching team, all the info is on our website www.hildenboroughtennis.co.uk.

Siân Todd - Match Secretary



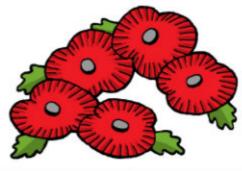


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6					2	7		1
7		9		5				
3	6	5		8				
	4	2	7		6	3	1	
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	9		5				3
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	2			9			





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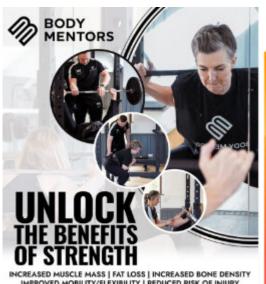
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Hildenborough Sports

Badminton Kathryn Stewart **07809 299 553**Indoor (Short Mat) Bowls Club David Chambers **01732 833 612**Hildenborough Cricket Club Barry Webb **01732 838 422**Hildenborough Friendly Badminton Club Ivan Kirkpatrick **07730 888 429**Stoolball Club Lauren Welch **07999 604 213**

Tennis Club (membership) www.hildenboroughtennis.co.uk
Hildenborough Road Races Amy Pay - hildenroadrace@gmail.com
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Hilden Park Chartered Accountants



The Autumn Budget will be announced on 26 November, but Chancellor Rachel Reeves' recent speech in Liverpool has already offered some clear hints of what's to come. Reeves warned that the UK faces "further tests" due to global headwinds - rising costs from trade tensions, conflict, and higher interest rates - alongside a long-term productivity problem at home. The message? Don't expect giveaways, and be prepared for measures to raise revenue.

While the main tax rates - Income Tax, National Insurance, and VAT - look set to remain unchanged, the

government may seek subtler ways to increase the tax take. Freezing tax thresholds could quietly pull more people and businesses into higher tax bands as wages rise. Other potential targets include pension and housing breaks or specific business tax reliefs, which might be reframed as the closing of "loopholes" rather than new taxes.

For businesses, this Budget is likely to be about stability and fiscal discipline rather than new incentives. The best approach is to stay alert and prepared.

If you would like any advice, please contact us on 01732 838877 www.hildenparkaccountants.co.uk

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