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From the Church



The Lightbulb

There's a story told about Thomas Edison, that captures something of his

character. When Thomas Edison finally succeeded in creating the first practical lightbulb, it took a team of workers twenty-four straight hours to assemble it. A young assistant was given the honour of carrying the finished bulb upstairs to place it in the testing room — and promptly dropped it. The precious creation shattered on the steps.

Edison said nothing. Instead, he quietly began the process again. Twenty-four hours later, the team completed another bulb — and to everyone's amazement, Edison handed it to the same young man. That's grace: entrusting a person who might have felt shame and failure with light once more.

Christmas is the moment when God did the same for us. Humanity had dropped the bulb — smashed the light — yet God did not give up. He entrusted light to us again, not as an invention but as a person: "The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world" (John 1:9).

The world still feels dim at times — wars, divisions, loneliness, and headlines that seem to drain the brightness from life. But into that darkness, the birth of Jesus announces that light has not gone out. It shines quietly, persistently, and personally.

A lightbulb only fulfils its purpose when it's connected to the power source. You can polish it, admire it, or keep it safe in a box — but unless it's plugged in, it won't shine. In the same way, people often try to glow by their own effort — through success, appearance, or good deeds — but real spiritual light only flows when we're connected to the Source of all light: Jesus Christ.

And here's the thing about that light: it doesn't just illuminate our lives; it helps others find their way too. When a single candle is lit, it's beautiful — but when many candles are lit together, the whole room changes. That's what the Church is called to be — not perfect, but plugged in, shining together, pushing back the darkness in the world.

This Christmas, may you know the light that no darkness can extinguish. You may have dropped the bulb once or twice — we all have — but the grace of God still hands you the gift and says, "Here, try again. I love you and am here with you."

Jesus is the light that repairs what's broken, warms what's cold, and reveals what's true. And when His light is switched on in you, the world becomes a little brighter — one life at a time.

You are very welcome to join us for one of our services over Christmas

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." — John 1:5

**Merry Christmas,
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		
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Warden	Vacant	01732 833 596 office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Treasurer	Rich Lake	07579 210 122 treasurer@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
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6-13
£1 per person

**The Hive
Youth Group**
Sunday 7th December
Christmas Party
5-7pm

All youth leaders hold a valid DBS

For more information please contact

Lisa Glasscote

lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk

5-7pm at St John's Church Centre



Christingle Service

Join us for our
annual Christingle
Service on
Wednesday
December 24th at
4pm, where we'll
celebrate the story
of Jesus' birth and
reflect on God's
love for the
world.

At St John's Church Hildenborough



YOU ARE INVITED

Christmas
DEMENTIA FRIENDLY
CAROL SERVICE

WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2025
AT 11AM

St John's Church, Hildenborough

COFFEE & MINCE PIES
AFTERWARDS



Come visit our new larder in Hildenborough.

St John's Church Centre, Hildenborough.

Tuesdays 11:30 am - 1 pm.

Together, we can prevent good food from becoming waste
and make grocery shopping easier on your budget.

Open to all residents in Hildenborough.

Everyone is welcome!

For £5 per household, you can choose from a wide
variety of items including:

- Fresh fruit and vegetables.
- Refrigerated and frozen foods.
- Bread and bakery items.
- Tinned and dried goods.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR
OWN SHOPPING BAGS**



St John's Community Larder – Hildenborough.

We're here to reduce food waste and support our community with affordable groceries.

Availability of food items varies each week, depending on supermarket surplus, donations, and supplies from FareShare. Some fresh items may have a short shelf life, but all food is safe and within date.

How it works:

- Register on your first visit (for safety/recall purposes).
- £5 entry gives you a shopping bag of food worth £15–£25.
- Please bring a bag for life.
- Item limits ensure a fair share for everyone.

If cost is a barrier, please speak to our team

We want everyone to feel welcome.

Just turn up or for more information please contact- communitylarder@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk



Meet the volunteer – Gabriele Drozd who makes the Advent Wreath at St John's

My name is Gabriele Drozd. I am married and have 2 daughters and 3 grandchildren. I have lived in Hildenborough since 1991 and have been worshipping at St. John's Church ever since.

I have been involved in various aspects of church life like taking part in a homegroup, serving refreshments, being a member of the welcoming team, singing in the choir and also doing some flower arranging for special church festivals.

The next big church celebration is going to be Christmas. The last 4 weeks before Christmas are called Advent which comes from the Latin word "adventus", meaning "arrival" or "coming". As Christians we are waiting for the arrival of Jesus Christ at his birth at Christmas.

The Advent Wreath is a tradition which originated in Germany and has become very popular in this country. And as I originally come from Germany, the leader of the flower team, who was very impressed by the large advent wreath she saw on a visit to Cologne Cathedral asked me about 25 years ago if I would like to make a German type advent wreath for our church, and that's what I have done almost every year ever since.

Obviously, my version is much smaller. There are 4 candles on the wreath itself, symbolising in the German tradition hope, peace, joy, and love. The first candle is lit on the first Sunday in Advent and then another one subsequently each Sunday, as we are waiting for the arrival of Jesus Christ. The 5th candle in the centre is lit at Christmas to symbolise the light Jesus has brought to the world with his birth.

If you would like to learn more about the flower team, please get in touch with the office: 01732 833 596
office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk.



More about me

What I like about KEYS is that it keeps me informed about all the different areas of village life, i.e. activities, events, developments, organisations, and skills on offer.

If I were the Prime Minister, I would reverse Brexit, which I think has only had a negative impact on this country and made some things more complicated than they were before.

For my fantasy dinner party, I would like to invite Tina Turner, whose music I love, and I've seen her performing. She escaped an abusive relationship and built up a successful solo career in her 40s with courage, strength and resilience.

My second guest would be Nelson Mandela whose dedication to justice and equality and exceptional capacity for forgiveness and reconciliation is an inspiration.

My third guest is not famous, but a very important person in my life. It's my dad, who died far too young at the age of 55, and I would love to ask him all those questions which I didn't do when he was still alive and tell him all those things I have done since he passed away.

If I had a superpower, I would get rid of all suffering and diseases.

Gabriele

HILDENBOROUGH AMATEUR DRAMATICS PRESENT

Cinderella

By Sharon Hulm

Directed by Richard Lake

St John's Church Centre, Hildenborough

5th 6th & 7th February 2026

Performances 7:30pm

Saturday Matinee 2:30pm

Bar open from 6:30pm

Tickets

Adults £12, Children £6, Concessions £8

For tickets go to www.ticketsource.co.uk
and search "Hildenborough"
Or scan the QR Code below



Alternatively call the ticket hotline
07579 210122



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!



Warm Hub



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!





WEST KENT AUTISM PARENTS' SUPPORT SOCIETY
INVITE YOU TO CONNECT WITH US

PARENT NETWORK SESSIONS

THE FAMILY ROOM, ST JOHNS CHURCH,
TONBRIDGE RD, HILDENBOROUGH

MONDAYS IN 2026:
12 JAN, 9 FEB
9 MAR, 13 APR
11 MAY, 6 JUN
12-1.30PM

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RN

Sara preferred to let people work
out the hymns for themselves



WINTER

Coat & Wellie Drive

Help families in need with new
or used coats and wellies for
adults or children.
Please ensure items are in good condition
and clean.

St John's Church,
Hildenborough

Drop Of Location:
Church Centre, Foxbush,
Hildenborough.

www.stjohnshildenborough.co.uk



Hospice in the weald - Christmas tree recycling. Collection - 10th-12th January We offer a simple, eco-friendly way to dispose of your tree. Have your unwanted Christmas tree collected from your home and recycled, courtesy of Hospice in the Weald. In exchange for a donation the Hospice's elves will collect and recycle your Christmas tree. No hassle, no waste, and no needles in your car!

For more information and to find out and how to register for a collection, please visit the events section of our website hospiceintheweald.org.uk

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



Green School Choir will be singing for us. Both schools



Well, we are in the month of December and getting ready for Christmas. The Market is a good place to be for those unusual Christmas gifts or finding something for someone whom you have no idea what to buy. 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. How about chutney or jam in a gift box or a jar of honey with a beeswax candle, soft knitted toys, fragrant candles, cheese, Christmas cake, Lego etc etc– the list is endless and then finish with a well-earned cup of coffee and cake. To find out what stalls are at the Market each week visit our Facebook page.

During the Market on Tuesday 9th December, we have invited Hildenborough CE Primary School to come and sing some Christmas music for us to get us in the Christmassy mood and then on Tuesday 16th December Stocks

will be singing between 9.30 am and 10.00 am.

The last market of the year is on Tuesday 23rd December when a certain person in a red suit and beard will be joining us. Come and meet Father Christmas!

We would like to wish all our customers, stallholders and helpers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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

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

The TMBC Local Plan – it matters to you too

At a meeting in the Village Hall on Friday 14th November, Matt Boughton, leader of TMBC, gave a presentation describing the Regulation 18 situation, explaining how important it was for TMBC to receive personal inputs from villagers. TMBC have to formulate a plan to deliver over 19000 new houses in the borough by 2042, and up to 1000 are earmarked for Hildenborough. This is a government mandate, and TMBC cannot refuse to comply, otherwise planning decisions will be made by personnel totally unconnected with the local area. TMBC will have posted papers to all

villagers by the time you read this, and it is imperative that you respond if you feel strongly about any matters. It is not enough to just say that your countryside view will be taken away – that cuts no ice with planning law. Matters such as schooling, medical facilities, transport, roads, etc. should be part of your concerns, and every person that responds adds weight to any argument against undesirable features in the plan. The future of the village is not known, but you could help to shape the way it does change – and it will. It's up to you now.

David Haugh



Christmas Trees and Market at Philpots Allotments!

27th November - 23rd December

Every day, 9:00 - 4:30

Premium Nordmanns & Traditional Norwegian Spruces

Great Christmas shopping at the pop-up market in the Barn:

Gifts, homewares, decorations, wreaths, mistletoe, bagged logs

**Huge stock clearance from Sparks Online Gift Retailers and
Blake & Bull Kitchen Shop - all at least **half retail price!****

Philpots Allotments, Philpots Lane, Hildenborough, TN11 8PA

Thank you for supporting local, family-run businesses this Christmas
Donation to Hospice in the Weald for every tree sold
www.philpotsallotments.com

Hildenborough Medical Practice Update

Readers will no doubt be aware that the Hildenborough and Trenchwood Surgeries have recently introduced a new appointment booking system called 'ANIMA'.

The Surgery's Patient Participation Group (PPG) are keen to support the Practice with this new system as it promises new benefits for patients. The new system was introduced as the previous system had resulted in up to 3 week waits for appointments and increasing patient frustration.

The new 'ANIMA' system was introduced in mid-June and since then the 3-week waits have reduced to as much as 3 days. The 'ANIMA' system involves filling out an online form; and help is available from the Care Navigators on the telephone to assist you to complete it as necessary.

As with any new system it has had its teething problems. These however are now reducing, and the new system is showing real benefits for patient care.

Sally Browne Member of the Hildenborough Medical Group, Patient Participation Group

Editor's Note - I have been encouraging the medical practice to provide content to Keys for some time and I'm grateful to Sally for producing this piece. I have asked what the arrangements are for someone who is not online and I hope greater detail will follow in future issues.

Evening WI: Our November meeting saw us discuss upcoming events and ideas for meetings that we are planning as well as our next fund-raising activity. Three of the ladies had been to WI events, and so we spent some time hearing about their days and the activities they had enjoyed.

One of our WI members, Sheila Cather then gave us a really interesting talk "A chat about Quilts." Sheila had brought in several of the quilts that she has made over the last 35 years of quilting. Beautiful examples of different patterns and materials, with appliqué and personalised items for friends and family, such as Christmas stockings for her three grandchildren. The talk was really interesting, and we all had lots of questions for Sheila about the work and time she takes to make them all as well as where she keeps them, as she has so many!!

Following our talk, we had our usual tea and chat, and everyone had brought in lots of items for the food bank.

Our evening finished with Penny reading two moving poems for Remembrance Day.

Our next meeting is **Tuesday 9th December 2025**, when West Kent Concert Band will be coming along to give us a talk and play for us.

The evening WI meets once a month and gives members the opportunity to meet new people, learn new skills, and have fun. We always welcome new members, so please feel free to just drop in and say hello, even just for one evening to see what we are all about.

Please note our meeting time, we meet in the family room at the Church Centre at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start.

Lorna Stapley-President.



Hildenborough CE Primary School - celebrating 180 years in 2027

Hildenborough CE Primary School will be celebrating its 180th anniversary in 2027. To mark this special milestone, we are creating a history timeline along our school corridor. This timeline will not only showcase significant moments in world history, but also highlight key events from Hildenborough and the surrounding area. As a school rooted in its community, we want to celebrate both our own story and the rich heritage of the village we are proud to be part of.

The local history featured will include moments such as the construction of Tonbridge Castle, the opening of Watts Cross Station (now Hildenborough), the establishment of the village hall, the founding of our school, and many more. Our pupils have already begun contributing by suggesting historical dates they would like represented. We believe this timeline will enhance their historical understanding, support memory retention, strengthen chronological awareness, encourage cross-curricular connections, and foster a deeper appreciation for the history of our village.

To bring this project to life, we are aiming to raise at least £1,000. Any additional funds raised will enable the PTA to direct their resources towards other important areas of school life.

We warmly invite local residents and friends of the school to support this project. Any donation, no matter how small, would be greatly appreciated. Please scan the QR code or visit:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/hildenborough-ce-primary-school-14?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL



As part of our anniversary celebrations, we will be hosting school tours and other special events, and look forward to welcoming you to see the timeline in place.

Thank you in advance for your support – from the children, staff and Governors of Hildenborough CE Primary School. ❤️

Mrs R Ardley - headteacher

Sudoku - easy and medium puzzles

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

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

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T.M.B.C. News

May I take this opportunity to wish all Hildenborough residents and businesses a Very Happy Christmas.

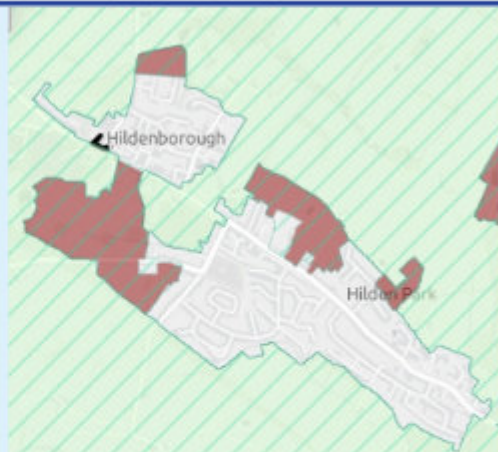
TMBC Local Plan. - The Local Plan consultation opened for responses on 10th November, it will run until 02 January 2026.

I would urge you to view the plan online via the TMBC website or the hard copies held at Tonbridge Castle Council offices. Responses can be Emailed or handwritten and sent to council.local.plan@tmbc.gov.uk

There will be a further consultation in Summer 2026, before submitting the Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination by December 2026.

Securing a Local Plan is the single most important step Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council will make this decade, to safeguard and control the future of our borough. It's a decision members want to make jointly with everyone who cares about Tonbridge and Malling Borough. The plan's central objective is to deliver approximately 19,000 new homes over the next 18 years - a target set by the Government. This must be done, while minimizing the 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 there is no Local Plan in place to steer development towards areas where it can be accommodated and is sustainable.

So, what's in the plan more locally?



For Hildenborough and Tonbridge the brown shaded areas are proposed housing allocations.

HI-1. Riding Park 77 houses. HI-2. Stocks Green Road 629 houses.

TO-3. Hilden Farm 30 houses. TO-4. Land to North of Brookmead 289 houses. And for Tonbridge TO-1. Greentrees near golf course 1,671 houses. TO-2. Coblands, end of Trench Road 294 houses and TO-5. Haysden 423 houses. These are the major allocations.

Why TO-3 and TO-4 are annotated that way and not included in Hildenborough is to do with settlement, so I am informed.

Please take time to view and comment on the local plan.

Tonbridge Town Council - The Tonbridge Town Council consultation is live until the 12th December, via the TMBC website or at the Castle Council Offices.

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.

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**

You will doubtless have seen a great deal of discussion about the TMBC Local Plan. TMBC does not currently have an adopted Local Plan because the version produced by the last administration in 2017 was rejected due to failure to cooperate with neighbouring councils.

National planning rules changed in 2024, increasing housing targets with the effect that TMBC must now produce planning for 19,746 new homes. The council is now consulting on a new draft plan (Regulation 18 stage), open from 10 November to 22 December 2025.

The purpose of a Local Plan is to:

Guide development until 2042.

Meet government housing targets (19,746 homes).

Protect the environment and manage infrastructure.

Provide legal weight to planning decisions. Proposals for areas outside of the Local Plan can be denied more easily.

Without a Local Plan, developers can build in unsuitable areas. Anywhere at all, within the borough. The council will have limited power to refuse applications. Infrastructure and environmental protections weaken.

Many view the current proposals as controversial because TMBC proposes releasing 404 hectares of Green Belt land

for housing and employment. Many areas previously classified as Green Belt are being reclassified as so-called "Grey Belt". This includes areas near Hildenborough, such as land north and west of the village and near Tonbridge. Green Belt release requires 'exceptional circumstances' under national policy.

You may feel that we are better off with this Local Plan, since it offers a degree of protection to other areas. However, should you wish to object during the consultation period, there are several things you can do, including:

Visiting TMBC's Local Plan portal:
<https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/local-plan>.

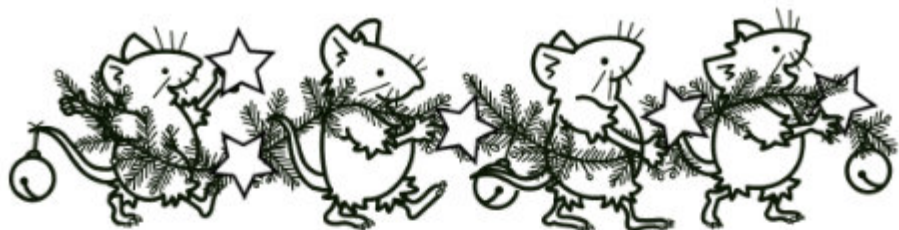
Submitting a formal objection with planning-based reasons (e.g., harm to openness, biodiversity, infrastructure strain). It is really important that reasons are clear, relevant and justified.

Referring to specific sites or parcels (e.g., Appendix H for Hildenborough).

Challenging the justification for Green Belt release. Are the circumstances sufficiently exceptional?

I hope you agree with me that this is a serious issue that will strongly affect our local area. Personally, I feel Hildenborough will be disproportionately affected by this plan. Please take the time to use the Local Plan Portal and have your say.

Cllr Kath Barton



From our MP: Tom Tugendhat

Until Thursday 2 January 2026, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council (TMBC) are consulting on its Draft Local Plan. This is the document which sets out where houses should be built in our community, until the 2040s.

The task for the Council is so much harder than ever before. That's because the Government have increased the housing target for TMBC by around 34%, instructing our Council to find land for nearly 20,000 new homes across this period. I feel for TMBC who have been given no choice and have pushed back against the Government on these housing targets given the constraints on infrastructure.

I did not support these changes in Parliament and have voted against the Government on its planning policy, including the new 'grey belt' definition. When I joined with other MPs to prevent towns and villages being able to merge by protecting the land between them, the Government voted against this.

Grey belt is an especially challenging policy for our area because it effectively takes all land immediately adjacent to towns and villages out of the green belt, if it meets the 'golden rules', which most developers say their land is able to.

In our community it means development of over 1,000 homes comes forward

within Hildenborough parish. The majority of these are at parcels of land between B245 and Stocks Green Road, but there are also sites north of B245, including between Woodfield Avenue and Hill View Road.

It is therefore critical we have our say directly to TMBC before the consultation closes on 2 January 2026. I have created a dedicated page on my website with all the information, including links on how to respond. You can visit this at

www.tomtugendhat.org.uk/localplan

Please do share your thoughts with me and, crucially, with the Council too. I know Mark Rhodes has regularly posted about the Local Plan in Keys Magazine and will be keen to hear feedback, as will the Council Leader Matt Boughton who has been attending a series of public meetings over the past few weeks.

You can also share your views with me as follows:

E-mail – tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk

Phone – 01732 441563

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

Website – www.tomtugendhat.org

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram – @tomtugendhat

Tom

The Night Sky - December

Astronomy, as in many other activities in life, requires a number of things to work all at once in order to achieve success. Nobody is better placed to comment on such things than an astronomer!

Of course, the first problem is that it has to be clear or there's no point in going any further. Beyond that, in most cases, the sky has to be dark to see anything meaningful which is where the next issue arises. Because, unless you happen to be a lunar observer, the Moon is best when it's out of the way. Such is the case for the Geminid meteor shower this year which is active from 4th December until the 17th with maximum activity occurring on the night of the 13th/14th. Anyone who looked last year was severely hampered by an almost full Moon "next door" to Taurus. This year the outlook is better with a waning crescent Moon not rising until 2:30am when I'm guessing most people will be tucked up in a warm bed.

The Geminids is the year's strongest shower in terms of the number of meteors per hour that we expect to see at peak activity. The Perseids, in August, receive enhanced media coverage because they are much more likely to attract casual viewers on warm summer evenings whereas cold winter nights require a tougher kind of observer!

The reason that we see meteor showers at regular times of the year is thanks to comets and, in the case of the Geminids, an asteroid as they pass around the solar system on highly elliptical orbits. Each time a comet or asteroid passes the Sun some of it vapourises and small particles are released which then form a trail of debris through which the Earth passes on a yearly basis. These particles collide with the Earth's atmosphere

and "burn up" though that isn't entirely the correct terminology.

The Geminids are so called because the point in the sky that the meteors appear to radiate from (the "radiant") is located in the constellation Gemini, the celestial twins. They seem to originate from one point in the same way that snowflakes do if you're driving in a car when it's snowing or if you see railway tracks converging into the distance. In general terms it's better to look later at night when the radiant is higher which means not only is there more chance of seeing meteors that are travelling south, towards the horizon, but air and light pollution away from the horizon will be less. Also, if you watch after midnight, numbers should be higher because the Earth, as it rotates, is turning to meet the particles head-on.

So, if the weather plays ball for us on the night of the 13th/14th we can expect to see perhaps one meteor every 3 or 4 minutes. Geminids are slow moving and often bright with many having a subtle yellow hue. It's best to meteor watch lying on a sun lounger with the head end raised slightly – viewing from the standing position plays havoc with the neck! Point yourself either towards the Plough in the north east or Orion/Taurus in the south east but you don't need to look directly at the radiant as meteors tend to be shorter there. In the map the radiant is shown as a black "R" on a white circle. Constellation names are in regular text whilst star names are in italics. The position of Jupiter is also shown.

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**

The Parish Council's green post box is located at the rear of the Pavilion Building

Hildenborough residents are encouraged to review the TMBC Local Plan and the proposed developments for our area (picture below). Residents need to respond directly to TMBC.

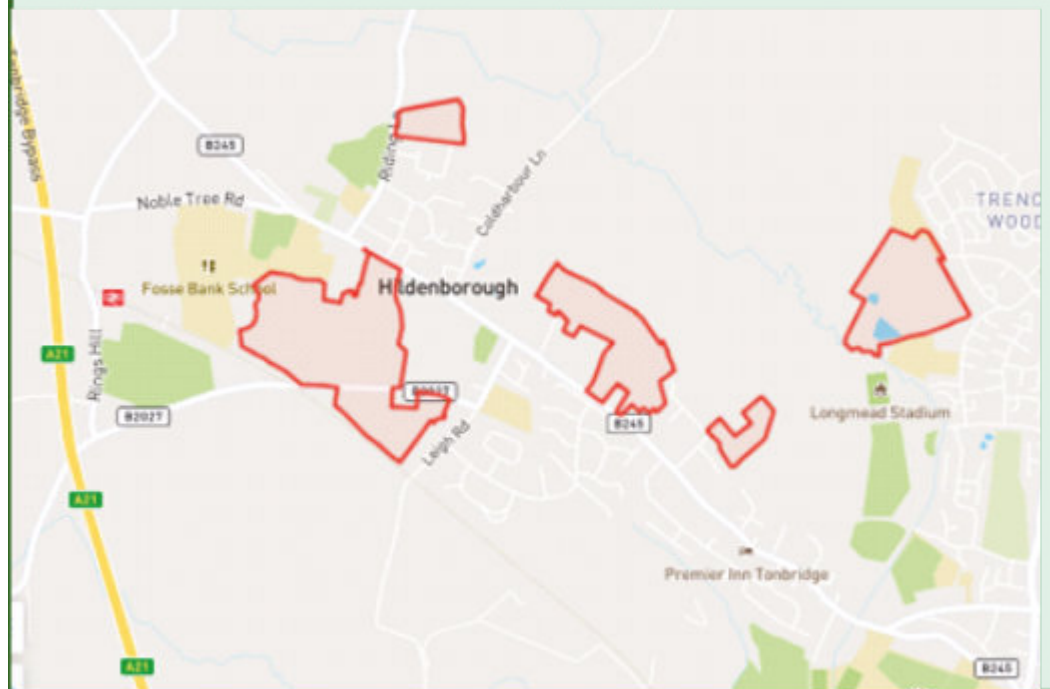
Have Your Say Today - Tonbridge And Malling Local Plan - Open for comments until 2nd January 2026 - www.tmbc.gov.uk/localplan

Share your feedback to TMBC by answering questions under each section or topic area. You don't need to answer

every question, just those that interest you.

At the end of your first survey, you'll be asked for your contact details. Please provide these to TMBC as they don't consider anonymous comments. You only need to enter your details once at the end.

If you are unable to view online TMBC are holding a drop in event on Thursday 4th December at Tonbridge Castle between 4pm and 7pm.



A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Volunteers

Hildenborough Parish Council would like to extend its sincere thanks to the Girl Guides and Scouts for their outstanding contribution to the community. Their dedication in planting up the memorial and arranging the handcrafted poppies has created a truly beautiful and moving display. The impact of their work has reached beyond our village—another Parish Council even contacted us to ask where the poppies were from, a testament to the quality and care that went into every detail.

A special acknowledgement to the Scouts for their creativity and craftsmanship in producing the poppies by hand. We are incredibly grateful.

Seasonal Colour Brightens Hildenborough

Winter plants and spring bulbs have now been added to the Village Green planters and the War Memorial, bringing a much-needed burst of colour to our community spaces.



Thank you to our maintenance team for their continued dedication and hard



work. Your efforts make Hildenborough a more vibrant and welcoming place for all.

A Golden Glimpse at the Village Green



Did you catch the Village Green turning a soft shade of yellow recently? It was a fleeting but striking sight—just before the rain returned!

This golden hue was the result of the recent sanding and drainage work carried out on the Village Green. These improvements are designed to enhance water absorption and reduce surface water during the wetter months.

Louise Jenner

Wordsearch

Did the Old Testament expect Jesus to come? Yes indeed! Here are just some examples of OT prophecies:

His lineage would be of the line of David. 'I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.' (Jeremiah 23:5-6).

He would bring healing. 'Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.' (Isaiah 35:5-6)

He would be crucified. They pierce my hands and my feet. All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment. (Psalm 22)

He would rise from the dead. 'You will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay...' (Psalm 16: 8-11)

Born
Virgin
Immanuel
Bethlehem
Ruler

Israel
David
King
Just
Right

Healing
Blind
Deaf
Lame
Mute

Crucified
Pierce
Hands
Feet
Gloat

Rise
Dead
Abandon
Decay
Realm

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

Oaks Nursery - Sustainability in Early Years Education

Located next to Hildenborough School on Riding Lane, Oaks Nursery helps the next generation develop a love of learning and a deep respect for the natural world.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is uniquely placed to nurture this awareness. Children are encouraged to “understand the world,” and in Hildenborough, that understanding often begins right outside the nursery door.

Simple moments, like exploring the changing seasons on village walks, watching bees in flower beds, and listening for birdsong, spark the very beginnings of environmental stewardship. Children plant seeds, hunt for mini-beasts, and learn about the cycles of life that connect us all. Watching a seedling grow or spotting a toad after a rainy day helps young children see themselves as part of something living and ever-changing.

We encourage children to recycle, compost food waste, and think about how their actions affect the environment. By



sorting their own rubbish or reusing materials for crafts, children begin to grasp the value of resources, lessons that stick far beyond the preschool years. Even water play takes an eco-conscious twist, with collected rainwater used for games and gardening.

Health and well-being are central, too. Children learn about healthy eating, hydration, and exercise, tying personal health to a broader sense of responsibility—for oneself, for others, and for the planet.

To find out more about The Oaks Nursery please visit <https://www.oaksnursery.org.uk> for children aged 2.5 to 5 years.

Kayleigh Minihane

🌱 Sustainable Christmas Craft: Homemade Salt Dough Decorations

Why it's sustainable:

Uses simple kitchen ingredients, no plastic, and can be composted after use – or treasured for years!

You'll need:

- 2 cups plain flour
- 1 cup salt
- ¾ cup warm water
- (Optional: natural food colouring, cinnamon, or essential oils for scent)

Instructions:

1. **Mix** the flour and salt together in a bowl.
2. **Add water gradually**, stirring until it forms a dough.
3. **Knead** for 5–10 minutes until smooth.
4. **Roll out** to about ½ cm thick and cut into festive shapes using cookie cutters.

5. **Use a straw** to make a small hole for hanging.

6. **Bake** at a low heat (around 120°C / 250°F) for 2–3 hours, or until hard and dry.

7. Once cool, **decorate** with water-based paints or natural dyes, and seal with a dab of eco-friendly varnish if you'd like them to last longer.

Tip: Tie them with twine or ribbon from last year's wrapping for a rustic, zero-waste finish





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IFA: Rob Mansfield DipPFS

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Local Directory

Church Contacts

Home (Connect) Groups
Prayer Chain
Bright Sparks, (Mondays, term-time)
Generation Creation (Sundays)

Church Office **01732 833 596**
Cynthia Fawcus **01732 833 397**
Lisa Glasscote **01732 833 596**
Lisa Glasscote **01732 833 596**

Community Groups

Evening Women's Institute
Beavers (Ages 6-8) Thurs 5.15-6.30 pm
Cubs (Ages 8-10.5) Monday 6.30-8 pm
Scouts (Ages 10.5-14) Friday 7.30-9 pm
Guides
Brownies

Miss Lorna Stapley - **07960 174 789**
hildenboroughbeavers8thtonbridgescouts@hotmail.com
hildenboroughwolfcubs@gmail.com
8thtonbridgescouts@gmail.com
Sharon Roberts - **07960 782 178**
hildenbrownies@outlook.com

Hildenborough Amateur Dramatics
Hildenborough Conservation Group
Hildenborough Farmers' Market
Hildenborough Gardeners' Society
Hildenborough History Society
Village Preservation Society
Hildenborough Litter Pickers
Hildenborough Parish Council
Hildenborough CofE Primary School
Stocks Green Primary School
Stocks Green Pre-School
Village Hall Bookings
West Kent Concert Band
Floodline

Rich Lake - **07579 210 122**
Mrs Lynne Flower **01732 355 080**
managerhildenboroughfm@gmail.com
David Haugh **01732 832 869**
Tracy **hildenboroughhistorysociety@yahoo.co.uk**
David Vanns **01732 835 289**
Emily Simons **07715 113 899**
Louise Jenner **07818 329 029**
www.hildenborough.kent.sch.uk - 01732 833 394
www.stocksgreenprimary.co.uk - 01732 832 758
www.stocksgreenpreschool.co.uk - 01732 834 115
Hilary Macnamara - **07598 927 953**
wkcb@muzodo.com

Southern Water (spillage reporting)
Hildenborough Speedwatch

0345 988 1188
0800 952 1001
jonathan.ashton.bidwriting@gmail.com

KENT POLICE (Non-emergency calls) 101

Hildenborough Sports

Badminton
Indoor (Short Mat) Bowls Club
Hildenborough Cricket Club
Hildenborough Friendly Badminton Club
Stoolball Club
Tennis Club (membership)
Hildenborough Road Races
Tonbridge Swimming Club
Tonbridge Bridge Club

Kathryn Stewart **07809 299 553**
David Chambers **01732 833 612**
Barry Webb **01732 838 422**
Ivan Kirkpatrick **07730 888 429**
Lauren Welch **07999 604 213**
www.hildenboroughtennis.co.uk
Amy Pay - **hildenroadrace@gmail.com**
chairman@tonbridgeswimmingclub.co.uk
Lionel Shields **01732 355 919**

Hilden Park

Chartered Accountants



UPDATED PROCESS FOR HIGH INCOME CHILD BENEFIT CHARGE

HMRC's online service to pay the High Income Child Benefit Charge (HICBC) through Pay As You Earn (PAYE) is now live. The service was announced at the Spring Statement 2025 and aims to reduce the need for some taxpayers to complete self assessment solely to settle the charge.

HICBC applies where the claimant or their partner has adjusted net income above the threshold. From the 2024/25 tax year, the threshold is £60,000, with child benefit fully withdrawn at £80,000. The clawback is 1% of the benefit for every £200 income over £60,000.

Previously, HICBC payers reported the charge via self

assessment, with limited coding-out through PAYE for amounts under £2,000. Under the new approach, PAYE taxpayers who only file a return to pay HICBC can opt out of self assessment and pay via PAYE instead. To use the service, individuals must first de-register from self assessment; access should be available the following day.

HMRC plans to write to around 100,000 people who appear liable but are not in self assessment. Households can also opt out of receiving child benefit payments. Registration can still be beneficial, however, as it provides National Insurance credits for non-working parents and triggers a child's NI number before age 16.

If you would like any advice,
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Christingle Service

24 December 2025 at 11.15pm
Midnight Communion Service

25 December at 10am
Christmas Day Service