

# KEYS

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NEWS  
HILDENBOROUGH

Jan  
2026

HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

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# towns

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# From the Church

## The turning of a year is a strange thing.

Nothing visibly changes overnight

and yet everything feels different. A new number on the calendar carries expectation, pressure, and possibility all at once. January can feel like a starting line, even if we're not entirely sure where the race is heading.

Many people begin the year by asking, "What do I want to change?" The Christian faith gently asks a different question: "Who am I becoming?" Becoming is a slower word. It allows room for learning, mistakes, and growth. It recognises that life is not a straight line, but a journey shaped by setbacks as well as successes. One of the great Christian truths is that God works patiently. Not rushing people into perfection but shaping them over time. This is good news for anyone who enters January tired, uncertain, or carrying regrets from the year before. We live in a culture that celebrates instant results. But faith, like character, develops gradually through small choices made consistently. Showing up when it would be easier to withdraw. Speaking truth with love. Choosing to hope.

Jesus never pressured people into immediate transformation. He invited them to follow step by step, day by day. And following, by definition, assumes movement rather than arrival.

We may not know what this year will hold. But the Christian faith insists that meaning is not found only at the destination, but in the walking itself.

Perhaps this year doesn't need a grand resolution. Perhaps it needs attention to what matters, to who matters.

The year ahead is not a test to pass, but a journey to live. The New Testament reminds us "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6

And wherever you find yourself on that journey, the invitation remains the same: keep walking, keep becoming, and trust that something good is still being shaped. God is not distant or demanding, watching from the sidelines with a checklist. Rather, He is present, attentive, and deeply invested in who we are becoming. Yet God's work in a person's life is not simply about directing events from the outside. It is about shaping them from the inside. True growth does not begin with changed circumstances, but with a transformed heart — with deeper character, clearer values, and a growing sense of meaning and direction. God does not force a path upon us. Instead, He walks with us, encouraging, strengthening, and gently guiding as we navigate life's choices and challenges.

In that sense, He is not a critic waiting for failure, but a quiet encourager — urging us on, reminding us of our worth, and calling out the potential He has always seen in us. To pay attention to the inner life as much as the outer one.

To trust that God is at work beneath the surface — shaping, strengthening, and drawing us toward the person we were always created to be.

**Happy New Year,  
Rev Tim Sait**

# 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

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact Details</b>
<b>Vicar</b>	Rev Tim Sait	07973 136 968 <a href="mailto:tim@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk">tim@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk</a>
<b>Children and Youths Pastor</b>	Lisa Glasscote	<a href="mailto:lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk">lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk</a>
<b>Church Administrator</b>	Emma Joynson-Hicks	01732 833 596 <a href="mailto:office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk">office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk</a>
<b>Church Volunteers</b>		
<b>Lay Readers</b>	Trevor Long	07513 420 509
<b>Warden</b>	Vacant	01732 833 596 <a href="mailto:office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk">office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Rich Lake	07579 210 122 <a href="mailto:treasurer@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk">treasurer@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk</a>
<b>Safeguarding</b>	Kate Lake	07579 821 956 <a href="mailto:safeguarding@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk">safeguarding@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk</a>
<b>Church Centre Bookings</b>	Cynthia Fawcus	01732 833 397 <a href="mailto:cynthia@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk">cynthia@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk</a>
<b>Foodbank and Warm Hub</b>	Denise Netherton	07942 148 175 <a href="mailto:denise@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk">denise@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk</a>
<b>Archivist</b>	Howard Dolling	07876 451 168
<b>Keys Magazine</b>		
<b>Editor</b>	Rob Mansfield	07515 819 860 <a href="mailto:editor@keysmagazine.co.uk">editor@keysmagazine.co.uk</a>
<b>Deputy Editor</b>	Claire Rawlinson	01732 834 896
<b>Distribution</b>	Clem Giles	01732 833 543 <a href="mailto:clemgiles@hotmail.com">clemgiles@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Advertising</b>	Liz Ridley	<a href="mailto:advertising@keysmagazine.co.uk">advertising@keysmagazine.co.uk</a>



# 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](http://www.stjohnshildenborough.co.uk)



## It's Panto time (oh no it isn't) oh yes it is!

As someone who has spent many years as an actor, director, and producer on both amateur and occasional professional stages, I often found myself looking at the stage in St John's Church Centre and wondering: Could we put on a show here in Hildenborough? Would enough people be interested? Could I find the help needed to make it happen?

In late summer 2025, after plenty of encouragement, I decided to give it a try. I found a great script, sent out a few emails, launched a social media presence, and put up some posters. The response was overwhelming! Not only was there interest, but I was also spoilt for choice. And so, Hildenborough Amateur Dramatics (HADS) was born, and *Cinderella* was coming to Hildenborough!



coming together beautifully! Our cast is a fantastic mix of local talent – from experienced performers in other amateur dramatics groups to those stepping onto the stage for the very first time. Every single person is giving it their all to bring you a show that will truly entertain.

Expect lively, foot-stomping songs and heartfelt ballads you'll recognise, and we hope you'll sing along and maybe even dance in your seats!

Behind the scenes, our production team is hard at work building sets, crafting props, and creating costumes for everyone from the Ugly Sisters to the Wicked Queen. On performance nights, we'll have refreshments, a licensed bar, and hopefully a raffle too.



Two rounds of auditions later, after some tough decisions, the cast was chosen and the adventure began!

We've been rehearsing since mid-October and, although I might be biased, it's really

If you haven't booked your tickets yet, don't wait, they're selling fast!

You can book by scanning the QR code on our posters or visiting <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk> and searching for "Hildenborough".

I can't wait to welcome you on performance nights!

**Rich Lake**

HILDENBOROUGH AMATEUR DRAMATICS PRESENT

# Cinderella



By Sharon Hulm  
Directed by Richard Lake

St John's Church Centre, Hildenborough

**5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk)  
and search "Hildenborough"  
Or scan the QR Code below



Alternatively call the ticket hotline  
07579 210122





HIVE  
Hildenborough Village

## The Hive Youth Group January 2026

For school year  
6-13  
£5 for 11/1/26  
£1 for 25/1/26



January 11<sup>th</sup>, 5pm - Laser Quest at  
North Farm in Tunbridge-Wells. Booking  
essential as limited spaces.

January 25<sup>th</sup>, 5pm- 7pm - Drama. Will you  
win an Oscar?



All youth leaders  
hold a valid DBS

For more information please  
contact  
Lisa Glasscote  
[lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk](mailto:lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk)



## 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!

Wide range of  
kids play  
equipment



# WHO LET THE DADS OUT?

2026 Dates.

Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>, **Feb 14<sup>th</sup>**, Mar 7<sup>th</sup>, April 4<sup>th</sup>,  
May 2<sup>nd</sup>, June 6<sup>th</sup>, July 4<sup>th</sup>, Aug 1<sup>st</sup>,  
Sep 5<sup>th</sup>, Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>, Nov 7<sup>th</sup>, Dec 5<sup>th</sup>.

£3 per family; includes hot breakfast  
roll and refreshments

Meet other  
local Dads and  
have fun



9:30-11am

Church Centre, Foxbush TN11 9HT



# Forget-me-not Cafés

*Companionship over a cuppa*



Happy New Year! 2025 was a busy year for the Forget-me-not

Cafés as it was 10 years ago that the Cafés started. There was a big celebration party to mark the anniversary which many of you attended and had a brilliant afternoon. The Hildenborough Café has been running for 8 years, doesn't time fly!

The Hildenborough Café has had many different entertainers over the last year, and we have enjoyed every one of them. Do you remember Annalene Beechey who took us through her favourite songs from the musicals? Then there was the lookalike Elvis Presley who arrived in his white tight-fitting suit and had us rocking in our seats. Santino and his guitar, Not King Cole, Luci taking us around the world with dance exercises, Bob Ogle talking about Biggin Hill during the war, and we cannot forget Neil Mack whose highlight of his set was playing the "Devil went down to Georgia" on his electric fiddle.

In December the traditional annual Carol Service was held in St. John's Church.

The Church looked stunning with the beautiful lit tree as we sang O Come all Ye Faithful, Silent Night and Away in a Manger. Coffee and mince pies finished off the morning, and we all went home feeling very jolly and Christmassy.

As we look forward now to a New Year, the start of 2026, we will be having our first Café on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January.

Whilst some of those who attend the Café live with a dementia diagnosis, others have mild memory loss, others care for a person with dementia, others would like company and a chat. We meet at 11.00 am – 12.30 pm on the second Wednesday of the month in the Family Room of the Church Centre at St. John's Church Hildenborough. There is plenty of free parking and disabled facilities on site.

If you would like more information on the Forget-me-not Cafés or would like to be put on the mailing list for the monthly programme of all the Cafés contact Elaine on [forgetmenot.sadfc@gmail.com](mailto:forgetmenot.sadfc@gmail.com) or 07946 534 476.

**Julie Rhodes**



**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**

## Meet the volunteer – Ela Law at Angel Café



I'm volunteering at the Angel Café on a Friday as 'front of house' which involves taking orders, serving, clearing tables and having chats with our lovely customers. I started when we opened at St John's, in May 2021.

I'm usually there between 9-2 on a Friday, so 5ish hours per week.

It's been great for picking up hospitality skills - customer service is something that's threaded throughout my working life and I very much enjoy using my people skills and learning how a café operates

The best thing about my role is the friends I have made from working with a wonderful bunch of people. It's also a joy to connect with our regular customers (both the adults and the children!) each week

I can't think of a bad experience, even when things go wrong, we pull together and have a giggle afterwards

The best way to find out more about my role is to get in touch with Brionnie - she

is the manager and owner at the Angel Café. And we are always happy to welcome anyone who might be interested in volunteering to pop in and have a chat with any of us!

<https://www.angelcafe.org.uk/contact>

I am originally from Germany, came to the UK in 1998 as an au pair and have lived here now longer than I haven't! I live in Sevenoaks; we moved there in 2020 from Bexley. I live with my family: husband, two teenagers and my dog Sophie.

As prime minister I wouldn't jump in with a law, I'd focus on long term systemic change in many different areas of our daily life so we can have sustainable improvements instead of short-term solutions.

I love reading about what's going on in the area and find out about local businesses that might come in handy one day!

For my dinner party I'd have Freddie Mercury - he'd have some incredible stories to tell!, Alan Carr because he's just so hilarious and lovely, and my gran because there are lots of things I didn't get a chance to ask her about before she passed away (and she'd get on with the other two, she was a hoot!)

My superpower would be flying - I love the idea of the sense of freedom flying would give me (and I could get to places quickly).

**Ela Law**

## **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!



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, 8 JUN  
12-1.30PM

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### **THE OAST THEATRE, TONBRIDGE**

“A MIRROR” by Sam Holcroft - 7<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2026

In a totalitarian state where the Ministry of Culture must approve all new works of art, a rebel group is staging an illegal play under the guise of a wedding. In this darkly funny political thriller, nothing is as it seems..... “A Mirror” is an explosively entertaining story of the search for love and truth in a society that values neither.

Definitely not to be missed!

Performances: 8 p.m. (Sunday 3 p.m.) - Tickets: £14

Book online at [www.oasttheatre.com](http://www.oasttheatre.com) - Credit card bookings 0333 666 33 66  
(booking fee applies)

## **Hildenborough Historical Society - Cliff Ward on 'Otford Bishop's Palace'. Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 7.30pm, Hildenborough Village Hall**

Did you know that at Domesday 'Hilden' was under the Jurisdiction of Otford Manor that was a major residence of many Archbishops of Canterbury? In Tudor times a grand Bishop's Palace replaced the original manor house and played a highly significant role in local and national history. Cliff Ward has been a leading light in research, restoration and re-use of the fine remaining Tudor building and will reveal more of this fascinating local history for us: £2, and free to members.

Tony Atkinson, chairman. [Atkinsontony@btinternet.com](mailto:Atkinsontony@btinternet.com)



## **Hildenborough History Society Archive: Volunteering request for a project on Keys Magazine**

Our family, which included two very small boys and a Dalmatian, moved to the Village from Twickenham in late August 1971. On the first day, our neighbour, Sheila Banks, called and told us of the horrors of the 1968 flood. Then on the following day, George Swannell (former vicar at St John's) came just as we were watching the football results on Grandstand. On our third day we received the Parish Magazine: we were impressed from the off.

Our love of "KEYS", as it became, has never dipped and the History Society is proud to say that we have a complete set of 12 for each year since 2000 and some for earlier years. We will gratefully accept donations to the Archive of any earlier year sets. The Magazine is an invaluable, enduring, historical record of the Village. We want to make the attractive features easily accessible to everyone in the Village. The ultimate objective is to be able to find in one place all that has been written say, for example, Village Events and Celebrations; Local Organisations, activities and concerns; Personalities; and regular contributors such as Anita Fleming.

We are therefore asking for volunteers to undertake a simple task of flagging contents of one or more years of KEYS, so that the Society can identify subjects covered throughout the 25 years and summarise the valuable information within. If you can help us by volunteering, please contact Pat Davies on 01732 833 092 or [pandadavies@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pandadavies@hotmail.co.uk) so we and future generations in our Village will have the reward of a true and accessible story of our shared times together.

***Pat Davies***

# HILDENBOROUGH



## FARMERS' MARKET



During the Market on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December, we invited Hildenborough CE Primary School to come and sing some Christmas music for us to get us in the Christmassy mood and they were so good. They enjoyed singing so much that they asked if they could do an encore which had all our customers joining in. The following Tuesday Stocks Green School Choir came and really put us in the mood for Christmas. We also enjoyed a visit from you know who, the man in the red suit, who interrupted his journey to come to the Market.

2025 has been a very busy year for the Market, we have had our regular stalls but also welcomed some new ones. We celebrated the anniversary of being at the Village Hall for one year. We joined in *Turning Tonbridge Pink* by raising funds for breast cancer with all our stalls,

stallholders and helpers wearing pink. During the school holidays we have put on free activities for the children and am grateful to Gary Poleykett who often runs workshops for us at these times.

We continue to have our Gift Vouchers, the perfect present, for you to purchase. Look out for our special Market shopping bags and pens that are available every week to buy.

We look forward to seeing you, there's a lot to browse and buy, and finish off with a cup of tea or coffee in the Cafe. **Our first Market of 2026 will be on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January.**

You can follow us on social media where most weeks there will be a list of all the stalls that are expected at the Market. We are open from 8.30am to 11.00 am every Tuesday at the Hildenborough Village Hall in Riding Lane.

Contact the Market manager: Nick Aldridge on: - [managerhildenboroughfm@gmail.com](mailto:managerhildenboroughfm@gmail.com)

### Kent Fraud Alert System

**Crypto Investment scams** - Investment scammers stole more than £97 million of savers' cash in the first half of 2025, according to industry body UK Finance. We have recently seen an increase in reports.

How does it work? The victim is contacted to invest in a fake crypto currency. The offenders will be very convincing and will provide you access to an online platform to monitor your investments, however it is all a scam, as when you ask to remove part of your investment, they will ask you to pay an additional fee in order to release either all or part of your money and will continue to request more fees. Once the victim realises it is a scam, the criminals then break all contact. If you are asked to pay money to release an investment, STOP and report it. You can call *Report Fraud* on 0300 123 2040. You can also contact your bank immediately by dialling 159.

### Preventing fraud

Together,  
let's stop  
scammers.



Remember, ABC:

 never Assume

 never Believe

 always Confirm

**Evening WI:** Our December meeting started with a brief chat from Cathy Wynne, one of our Parish Councillors, who came along to share some information and signpost us to where we can go to register our views for the consultation phase regarding proposed local plans for new houses.

We then went to the main hall to listen to West Kent Concert Band who gave us a concert of beautiful music, several Christmas pieces. As well as the music the conductor gave us information about the make up of the band, running through the different instruments, how they sound in isolation, in groups and how they all work together to build the piece of music with the different tones. It was really informative as well as thoroughly enjoyable, and the musicians were all brilliant.

One of our members was asked to join in with some percussion for the final piece!

Following the music everyone joined us to share refreshments of tea and mince pies. It gave us the opportunity to chat to the band.

**the WI**  
**INSPIRING WOMEN**

**Hildenborough WI wish you all a Happy New Year.**

Our next meeting is **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026** when we will be holding our New Year Party.

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**

### **Police Impersonation Scam – Courier fraud.**

We have received reports of criminals calling residents in Tonbridge, Romney Marsh and Margate impersonating police officers. Residents are being called and told:

- Their bank account has been compromised.
- Their card needs replacing
- A family member has been arrested.
- They must buy gold - A courier will collect their card, cash, or gold.

These are scams. The police will never ask for your financial details over the phone or send someone to collect your card, cash, or valuables.



## The Night Sky - January

The beginning of a new year is probably a good time for people to look ahead and see what goodies it promises and, in that respect, astronomers are no different. Of course, many of the things we look at require a degree of optical assistance but that's of little use to the general public. What they are interested in, and want to know about, are the sort of events where the naked eye is all that's needed.

Have you ever seen Mercury? Not many people have. There is a reasonable chance to see it in the evenings in mid-February and again in the middle of June when the brilliant "Evening Star", Venus, is also visible.

Jupiter rules the evening skies for those of us in the northern hemisphere, and that will be the case from January until early June. The other "gas giant" Saturn, puts on a good show from late September now that the tilt of its ring system is displaying the underside of the rings to better effect.

What will most likely grab the attention of the general public though is an eclipse of the Sun on 12<sup>th</sup> August when 91% of the Sun will be obscured. Then on the 28<sup>th</sup> of the same month it's the turn of the Moon to be eclipsed when 93% of it will move into the earth's shadow. It isn't all good news because that event doesn't begin until 3:30am and ends when the Moon sets at 6:10am with the eclipse still in progress.

If you enjoy meteor watching then the Perseid meteor shower in August reaches its peak on the night of the 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> that rather conveniently coincides with a new Moon which will be a big improvement on the 85% Moon which rather spoiled the 2025 display.

The other high activity shower is the Geminids which peaks on the night of 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> December. In fact, recent data suggests that activity is actually increasing year by year so the fact that in 2026 the slim waxing crescent Moon will have set by 8pm should encourage even casual watchers to take a look.

That's all about the future but what about the here and now? Of course, in January, we see the brilliant winter constellations that are generally clustered around Orion, "The Hunter" which lies in the south east at 8pm in the middle of the month. The three stars which make up Orion's belt make him easily identifiable. If you draw a line through the stars of the belt and down towards the horizon, you'll reach Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky. A line through the belt and upwards will pass close to another bright star, Aldebaran, in Taurus the bull. Continuing that line north will bring you near to the Pleiades cluster otherwise known as the "Seven Sisters". See how many you can spot after your eyes have become dark adapted. The brilliant object that sits some twenty-five to thirty degrees to the east (left) of Orion is the planet Jupiter which is currently found among the stars of Gemini, the twins. The two bright stars a little to the east of Jupiter signify the Twin's (Castor and Pollux's) heads.

If you want to see Orion and his retinue at their best then if you look at 10pm in mid-January, he will be due south and at his greatest elevation. Alternatively, if you wait until the middle of next month, the hunter will be in exactly the same position at 8pm.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> January, Jupiter will be at its closest to Earth, something that astronomers refer to as "opposition" because the planet lies opposite the Sun in the sky. Being at its closest means it appears at its brightest and largest. Have a look for the four Galilean moons even if you only have binoculars.

The Quadrantid meteor shower is brief with activity centred on the night of 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> January. Meteors appear to radiate from close to the end of the handle of the plough and can reach high numbers in the right conditions. The downside this year is that a full Moon is in nearby Gemini although watch out for the brighter meteors that very often leave an ionised "train" behind them for a few seconds.

**Brian Mills FRAS**

## **www.keysmagazine.co.uk - Business Directory now live**

When speaking to people about what they like about Keys Magazine, the business adverts at the back often get mentioned. I love hearing the positive experiences people have when they're in need of a service. Occasionally I hear of things when something hasn't quite worked out and I do my best to speak with everyone and get everyone talking. Please do let me know of your experiences, it's invaluable information.

These adverts go a long way towards funding Keys and keeping it free for everyone to get a copy, but increasingly, the magazine is full up and I want to keep the balance between local content and trade adverts. Rather than turn away potential advertisers, I wanted to find a way that achieves the following:

- We keep the magazine full of local content - If you've ever thought about writing something for Keys, please get in touch. The content deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.
- Gives local businesses an opportunity to be found and gain some exposure
- Support our local economy

Therefore, I decided to build a business directory onto our website, and you can find it here: <https://keysmagazine.co.uk/advertiser-directory/>

Any business local to the parish that is consistent with a Christian ethos can have a listing. Liz, our advertising manager has been instrumental in building the database and she's built out adverts for all our magazine advertisers. Please do check it out and if you're a local business, please add your listing up there!

I am working on other features for the website and so if there is something in particular you'd like to see, please let me know. You can email me at [editor@keysmagazine.co.uk](mailto:editor@keysmagazine.co.uk), by letter via the Church office or in person at the Farmers' market (I'm there the first Tuesday of each month). Once we're happy we've got this working well, we'll be looking at a local events calendar to help publicise local events. We're volunteer run and so there's never enough time(!) but I want our website to become a great local resource.

***Rob Mansfield - Editor***

# T.M.B.C. News

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

### **TMBC Local Plan.**

The Local Plan consultation closed for responses on 02 January. On the TMBC website there are extensive details for the progression of the local plan, including Regulation 19, Publication of the Pre-Submission LP due Q2 26/27 and Regulation 20 Consultation of the Pre-Submission LP due Q2 26/27. The timetable TMBC is working to suggest a sub-mission of the plan to the Secretary of State by 12 December 2026. The plan's central objective is to deliver approximately 19,000 new homes across the Borough 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.

### **Air Quality.**

Good news on air quality in Tonbridge High Street, pollution levels have been in decline for a number of years and are well below the 10% of the annual objective for Nitrogen Dioxide. There are numerous reasons for this continual drop, working at home, start/stop cars, Hybrid and Electric cars.

### Parish Council.

I attended the last full Parish Council meeting for the year in December. I would like to offer my grateful thanks for all the work undertaken by Parish Councillors during 2025 for residents and businesses in Hildenborough.

### Planning Department.

The planning department at TMBC was subjected to a Planning Peer Challenge last September. All members were given the opportunity to input into the review via the Area Planning groups. The report of the review runs to 22 pages and there are 14 key recommendations. Please email me if you would like a copy of the recommendations otherwise the whole report is available on the TMBC website under the meetings tab for Housing and Planning 02/12/25.

### 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 914 166  
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**

## From our MP: Tom Tugendhat

The Rt Hon Sir John Stanley, who served our community for 41 years, has died at the age of 83 following a short illness.

Sir John served Tonbridge and Malling as MP between 1974 and 2015. He dedicated much of his life to our concerns and cared deeply. I have learned so much from so many who have shared stories of his dedication to responding to those who needed his help.

Sir John was known in Parliament for the way he articulated the case for greater flood protection for our village. Early on in his tenure he persuaded what was then the Southern Water Authority to introduce the River Medway (Flood Relief) Act 1976, which led to the construction of the Leigh Flood Storage Area off Powder Mill Lane. To this day we know how that has helped protect much of our community from the worst effects of flooding, and the current works to strengthen the embankment alongside the expansion of the Flood Storage Area are only possible because of the Act of Parliament he helped introduce in 1976.

He also served with distinction in Parliament on the Foreign Affairs Committee and as a minister in government. Sir John had the privilege, as Margaret Thatcher's PPS, of being the one who welcomed her into Number 10 for the first time. He went on to bring through the law allowing council tenants

to buy their homes, the biggest transfer of wealth in a generation.

From there he went on to serve as the Minister for the Armed Forces in the Ministry of Defence and later as a minister in the Northern Ireland Office. His unique style brought change and focus to each role. He served our country with distinction.

Even after he stepped down, he was a kind friend and counsel to me and was the best predecessor I could ask for. No issue was too big or small for Sir John to deal with. In Parliament, he was devoted to serving his country in the same way he served our community.

I know I will not be alone in missing Sir John, he helped many of us in Kent, and across the United Kingdom. His life was one of dedication and service. I send my deepest condolences to Elizabeth and to his whole family.

You can also share your views with me as follows:

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

Website – [www.tomtugendhat.org](http://www.tomtugendhat.org)

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram – [@tomtugendhat](https://www.instagram.com/tomtugendhat)

**Tom Tugendhat**

# Centre Piece

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

Contact: Louise Jenner (Clerk) - 07818 329 029 [clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto: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 Parish Council would like to thank all residents for their responses and feedback to the TMBC Local Plan. It has been encouraging to see so many people attending the various information events, drop-in sessions, and Farmers' Markets to share their views and concerns with the Parish Council.

We would also like to encourage residents to sign up to our email list so that we can keep you updated as further information on the Local Plan becomes available. You can register via the Parish Council website, or by emailing or texting the Parish Clerk with your contact details. On the next couple of pages are some of the results of the Parish Survey that formed part of our response to the TMBC Local Plan.

## Recreation Ground Update



Work to install the new footpath is scheduled to begin on 5 January, weather permitting. During this period, please

note that part of the car park will be fenced off to allow the contractor to store equipment and manage soil spoil.

We are also pleased to confirm that funding from the S106 contribution linked to the Berkeley Homes development has enabled the Parish Council to invest in new accessible play equipment. A new play item, along with sensory boards and printed ground games, will be installed at the Recreation Ground in the coming weeks.

The play park may need to close for a short period while this work takes place. As soon as installation dates are confirmed, we will share updates on our social media channels.

## Hildenborough Embankment Project – December Update

The latest December project update from VolkerStevin is now available to view on the Hildenborough Parish Council website.

## Job Vacancy

Hildenborough Parish Council is seeking to appoint a part-time Assistant Parish Clerk.

The role will begin at 15 hours per week, with a requirement to attend some evening meetings each month. This is an excellent opportunity to support the Council's administrative, governance, and community work. For the full job description, person specification, and application details, please visit the Hildenborough Parish Council website. [www.hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk)

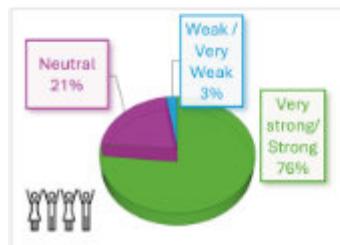
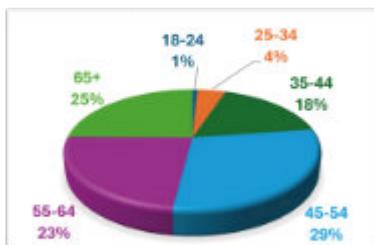
# Hildenborough Parish Council Survey

Thank you for taking the time to respond: we received 381 replies: **95%** of responses were from residents.

Have you heard of the Local Plan?



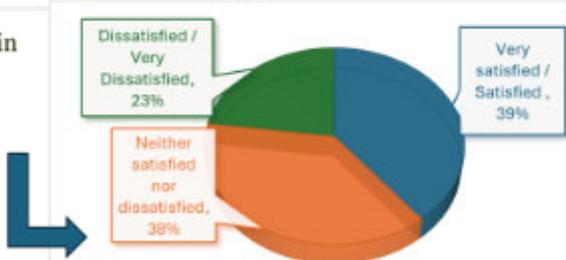
Age range of responders

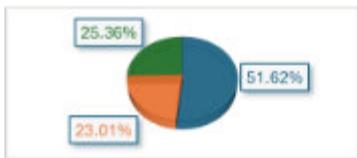


Hildenborough: Where  
**76%** noted our strong  
sense of community –  
and **92%** confirm our  
separate identity to  
Tonbridge!



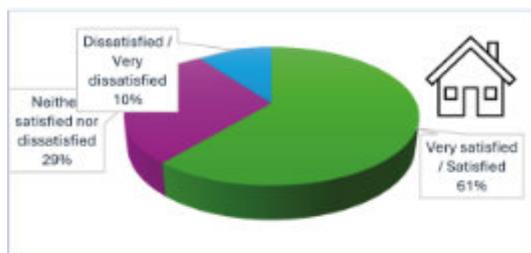
Feedback on public transport in Hildenborough was evenly divided, showing no clear consensus among residents.



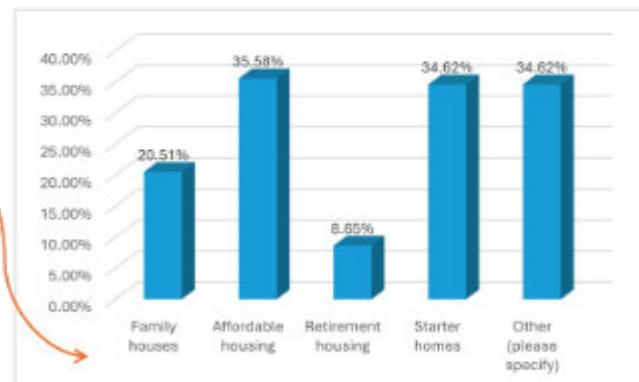


61% of respondents expressed satisfaction with the housing mix in Hildenborough.

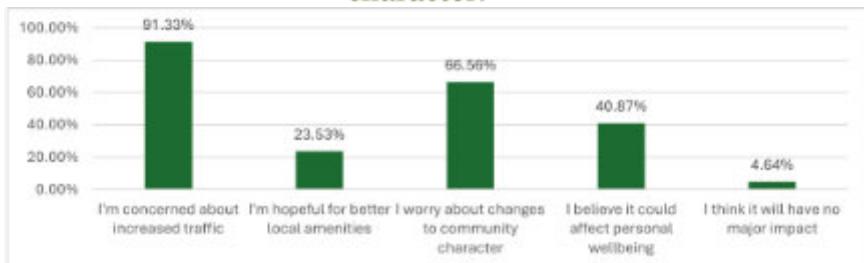
Almost 52% of residents report being satisfied with parking in Hildenborough.



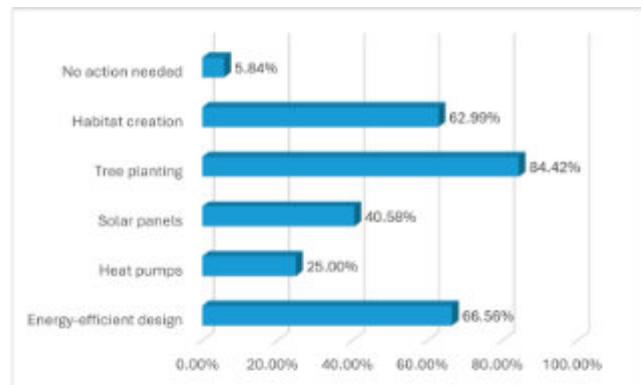
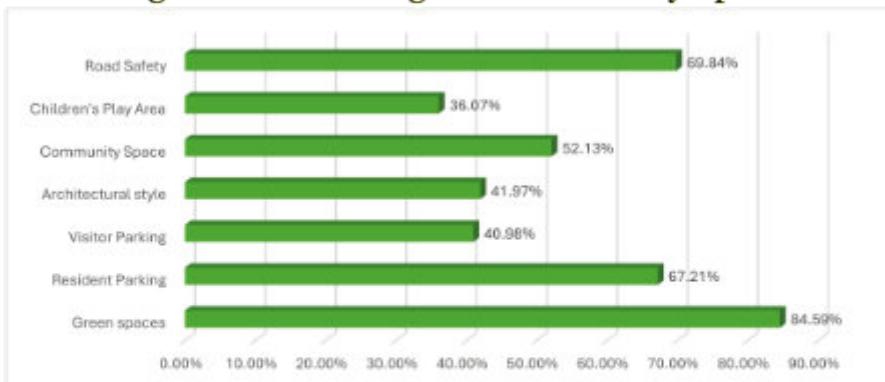
Residents call for more affordable and starter homes.



Residents' main concerns about new housing developments centre on traffic growth and preserving Hildenborough's unique character.



## Green Spaces and Road Safety lead housing priorities, with strong calls for Parking and Community Space.



Tree planting leads Hildenborough's Climate Priorities with 84% support, while Energy-Efficient design and Habitat Creation also rank high in residents' Environmental Vision.



77% Say Green Spaces and Walking Routes Are Vital to Hildenborough's Future.

## Crossword

### Across

8 How the Abyss (NIV) is described in the Authorized Version (Revelation 9:1) (10,3)

9 Frozen water (Ezekiel 1:22) (3)

10 The Ten Commandments (9)

11 In Roman Catholic theology, neither heaven nor hell (5)

13 Des cons (anag.) (7)

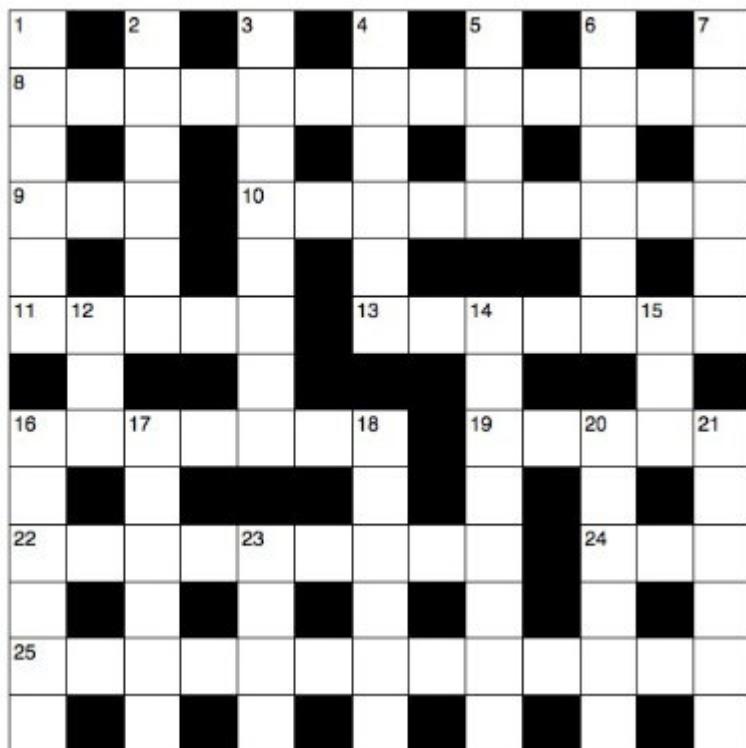
16 'Though [your sins] are red as — , they shall be like wool' (Isaiah 1:18) (7)

19 Keen (Romans 1:15) (5)

22 Repugnant, loathsome (Jeremiah 24:9) (9)

24 Drink like an animal (Judges 7:5) (3)

25 First and last (Revelation 22:13) (5,3,5)



### Down

1 Father of Ahi, a Gadite (1 Chronicles 5:15) (6)

2 Where David found the stone with which he killed Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (6)

3 'Hour by hour fresh lips are making thy — doings heard on high' (8)

4 'And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their — at night' (Luke 2:8) (6)

5 United Society for Christian Literature (1,1,1,1)

6 'If he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would — — or a tax collector' (Matthew 18:17) (1,5)

7 Where Paul was taken when things became difficult for him in Berea (Acts 17:15) (6)

12 Istituto per le Opere di Religione (Vatican Bank) (1,1,1)

14 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new — ; the old has gone, the new has come!' (2 Corinthians 5:17) (8)

15 Used to colour ram skins red for use in the tabernacle (Exodus 25:5) (3)

16 Vat car (anag.) (6)

17 'Be joyful — — , patient in affliction, faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (6)

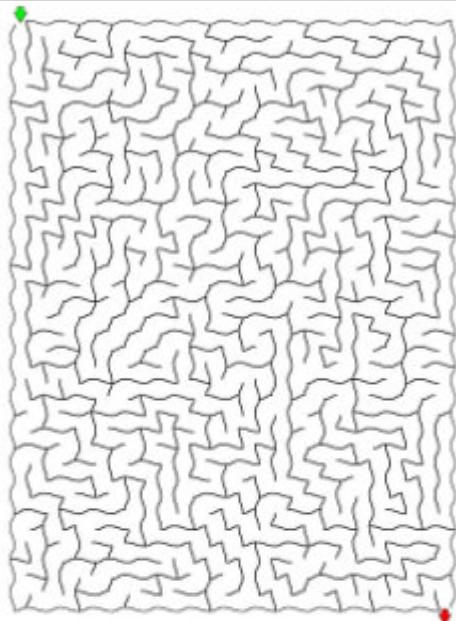
18 'The parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts — — special treatment' (1 Corinthians 12:23) (4,2)

20 Ancient rowing boat (Isaiah 33:21) (6)

21 Say again (2 Corinthians 11:16) (6)

23 What Jesus did in the synagogue in Nazareth after he stood up (Luke 4:16) (4)

**Maze - can you find your way from the green arrow to the red?**



*The boiler only worked if the Verger switched it on*

**Sudoku - easy and medium puzzles**

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

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

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## Wordsearch - Epiphany

6<sup>th</sup> January brings Epiphany - the visit of the Wise Men to the baby Jesus. Matthew calls them 'Magi', the name of an ancient priestly caste from Persia. Early church tradition says there were three: Balthasar, Caspar and Melchior. As for their gifts? Gold is a symbol of wisdom and wealth, incense is a symbol of worship and sacrifice, and myrrh is a symbol of healing - and even embalming. Jesus challenged and set aright the way in which the world handled all three of these things.

**Epiphany**

**Visit**

**Wise**

**Men**

**Magi**

**Priestly**

**Persia**

**Balthasar**

**Caspar**

**Melchior**

**Gold**

**Wealth**

**wisdom**

**Incense**

**Worship**

**sacrifice**

**Myrrh**

**Symbol**

**Healing**

**Embalming**

**Ancient**

**Gifts**

**Tradition**

**Challenged**

**world**





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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  
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  
Southern Water (spillage reporting)  
Hildenborough Speedwatch

Miss Lorna Stapley - **07960 174 789**  
[hildenboroughbeavers8htonbridgescouts@hotmail.com](mailto:hildenboroughbeavers8htonbridgescouts@hotmail.com)  
[hildenboroughwolfcubs@gmail.com](mailto:hildenboroughwolfcubs@gmail.com)  
[8htonbridgescouts@gmail.com](mailto:8htonbridgescouts@gmail.com)  
Sharon Roberts - **07960 782 178**  
[hildenbrownies@outlook.com](mailto:hildenbrownies@outlook.com)  
Rich Lake - **07579 210 122**  
Mrs Lynne Flower **01732 355 080**  
[managerhildenboroughfm@gmail.com](mailto:managerhildenboroughfm@gmail.com)  
David Haugh **01732 832 869**  
Tracy [hildenboroughhistorysociety@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hildenboroughhistorysociety@yahoo.co.uk)  
David Vanns **01732 835 289**  
Emily Simons **07715 113 899**  
Louise Jenner **07818 329 029**  
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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**  
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Amy Pay - [hildenroadrace@gmail.com](mailto:hildenroadrace@gmail.com)  
[chairman@tonbridgeswimmingclub.co.uk](mailto:chairman@tonbridgeswimmingclub.co.uk)  
Lionel Shields **01732 355 919**



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## SELF-ASSESSMENT DEADLINE APPROACHING – ARE YOU READY?

The deadline for filing your 2024/25 Self-Assessment tax return is fast approaching. You must submit your return and pay any tax due by 31 January 2026 to avoid penalties and interest.

To meet the deadline, you will need to make sure you have:

- All income details, including any employment, pension, self-employment, dividends, rental and savings income you received.
- Records of allowable expenses and reliefs.

- Details of any pension contributions or charitable donations.

Filing early not only helps avoid last minute stress but also gives you time to check your figures and plan for any tax payments you need to make.

If you would like help preparing and submitting your tax return, please get in touch as soon as possible. We can help you ensure that your tax return is accurate, complete and filed on time.

If you would like any advice, please contact us on 01732 838877

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