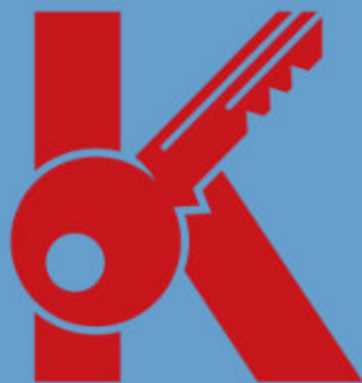




CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NEWS

# KEYS

HILDENBOROUGH



**August 2026**  
**[www.keysmagazine.co.uk](http://www.keysmagazine.co.uk)**

# towns

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# From the Church



## Why Do We Love the Sea?

Have you ever wondered why so many of us love being beside the sea?

Every summer thousands of people pack the car, battle the traffic, queue for fish and chips, and head for the coast.

And almost without fail, something changes. Our shoulders begin to relax. We breathe a little more deeply. The conversations seem easier. Somehow, simply sitting beside the water feels like medicine for the soul.

But why?

Perhaps it's because the sea reminds us of something we've forgotten. Unlike our busy lives, the sea never seems to hurry. The tide comes in. The tide goes out. Wave after wave reaches the shore just as it has done for thousands of years.

Standing there, watching the horizon stretch further than our eyes can see, many of the problems that

seemed enormous at home suddenly become a little smaller. The sea has a way of giving us perspective. The sight, the sounds and the smell of the sea water enriches our souls.

Maybe that's one reason Jesus spent so much time there. So much of his ministry unfolded beside the water. He called fishermen to become disciples. He taught crowds gathered along the shoreline. He calmed storms. He walked upon the waves. He cooked breakfast on the beach after his resurrection. Again and again, some of the most life-changing moments in the stories about Jesus, happened beside the sea. Perhaps that isn't a coincidence.

The Bible often speaks of stillness.

*"Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)*

Stillness is becoming one of the rarest experiences in modern life. Our phones buzz. News never stops. There is always another email, another task, another distraction competing for our attention.

Yet when we stand beside the sea, something invites us to slow down. We begin to notice. The rhythm of

the waves and the sound of water. The cry of the gulls. The sparkle of sunlight dancing across the water. The vastness of the horizon. For a few precious moments, life feels bigger than our diary.

Scientists now tell us that spending time near water can lower stress and improve our sense of wellbeing. Christians have perhaps known something similar for much longer. Creation has always been one of God's gifts to us—a place where our hurried hearts can begin to find their proper rhythm again.

Maybe that is why so many people say, "I feel different by the sea."

This August, if you find yourself walking along a beach, sitting on a harbour wall, or simply watching waves roll onto the shore, don't rush the moment. Pause. Breathe. Look out towards the horizon. And perhaps ask yourself one simple question:

*If God's creation can bring such peace to my heart, what might it be like to know the Creator himself?*

You may discover that the One who made the sea has been quietly inviting you to come and find rest in him all along. **Tim Saiet**

# ST JOHN'S CHURCH - Directory

**Tel: 01732 833 596    Website: [www.stjohnshildenborough.co.uk](http://www.stjohnshildenborough.co.uk)**

Please ring the church office or email any time, if you would like to discuss any pastoral or administrative matter.

Office Hours - Monday to Friday 10am till 4pm

| Role                               | Name               | Contact Details                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Vicar                              | Rev Tim Saiet      | 07973 136 968<br><a href="mailto:tim@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk">tim@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk</a>                   |
| Children and Youths Pastor         | Lisa Glasscote     | <a href="mailto:lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk">lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk</a>                                  |
| Church Administrator               | Emma Joynson-Hicks | 01732 833 596<br><a href="mailto:office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk">office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk</a>             |
| Church Volunteers                  |                    |                                                                                                                       |
| Lay Readers                        | Trevor Long        | 07513 420 509                                                                                                         |
| Warden                             | Vacant             | 01732 833 596<br><a href="mailto:office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk">office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk</a>             |
| Treasurer                          | Rich Lake          | 07579 210 122<br><a href="mailto:treasurer@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk">treasurer@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk</a>       |
| Safeguarding                       | Kate Lake          | 07579 821 956<br><a href="mailto:safeguarding@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk">safeguarding@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk</a> |
| Church Centre Bookings             | Cynthia Fawcus     | 01732 833 397<br><a href="mailto:cynthia@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk">cynthia@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk</a>           |
| Community Food larder and Warm Hub | Denise Netherton   | 07942 148 175<br><a href="mailto:denise@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk">denise@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk</a>             |
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| Advertising                        | Liz Ridley         | <a href="mailto:advertising@keysmagazine.co.uk">advertising@keysmagazine.co.uk</a>                                    |

**Would you like to write something for Keys?**

**The deadline for content is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.**

If you have an idea for an article or a piece for the magazine, please let me know. I'd be happy to discuss it. You can email me on [editor@keysmagazine.co.uk](mailto:editor@keysmagazine.co.uk) or meet me at the farmers' market on the first Tuesday of the month.

*Rob Mansfield - Editor*

# WHO LET THE DADS OUT?



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**Church Centre, Foxbush TN11 9HT**

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## Can you help deliver Keys?

Thank you so much for the fantastic level of response to our request for more distributors. If you would like to help us distribute Keys, please get in touch with Clem (details below).

The more people we have helping out, the more we can spread the load and re-jiggle routes to suit everyone. It also could mean holiday cover.

If interested please contact Clem on 01732 833 543 or 07756 585 549 or [clemgiles@hotmail.com](mailto:clemgiles@hotmail.com).

Hildenborough Amateur Dramatic Society presents

# FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

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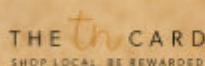
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ST JOHN'S CHURCH, HILDENBOROUGH

**Hildenborough Amateur  
Dramatic Society Presents**

# **Fiddler on the Roof**

Directed and Produced by Richard Lake

**St Johns Church Centre - Hildenborough**



**24<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> August 2026 – 7pm**  
**Bar open from 6pm**

**For tickets go to [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk)  
And search “Hildenborough”  
Or scan the QR Code**

**Alternatively call - 07579 210122**



This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI  
[www.mtishows.co.uk](http://www.mtishows.co.uk)

Based on Sholem Aleichem stories by  
special permission of Arnold Perl  
Book By: Joseph Stein  
Music By: Jerry Bock  
Lyrics By: Sheldon Harnick

Produced on the New York Stage by  
Harold Prince  
Original New York Stage Production Directed  
and Choreographed by  
JEROME ROBBINS



# Forget-me-not Cafés



*Companionship over a cuppa*



Every month at  
the Forget-me-not  
Café in  
Hildenborough

we welcome singers and musicians to entertain those who attend. In July we had a real treat with John and Di Cullen coming to sing songs old and new accompanied by their guitar. After handing out some song books with all the lyrics we were able to choose our favourites to sing which included Knees up Mother Brown, Oom-pah-pah and If I Knew You Were Coming I'd Have Baked A Cake which I didn't know but was a well-known song in the 1950s.

At the Café, Elaine Murray who is a Trustee of the Forget-me-not Cafés told us that on the 18<sup>th</sup> June the charity was invited to the Sevenoaks District



Community and Voluntary Making it Happen Awards where the Cafés had been nominated for the Volunteer Group of the Year Award. Elaine was delighted to say that we won the award in recognition of the 44 volunteers who help to run all the cafés throughout the year in Otford, Westerham, Edenbridge, Knole and Hildenborough. Much to Elaine's surprise we also won the Older Persons

Group/Project of the Year Award for the Forget-me-not Cafés. Elaine is the second from the right in the picture with the other Trustees receiving the awards.

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 please contact Elaine on



[forgetmenot.sadfc@gmail.com](mailto:forgetmenot.sadfc@gmail.com) or phone 07946 534 476.

Those who come to the Café live with a dementia diagnosis while others have mild memory loss, others care for a person with dementia. The Café is also open to anyone who would like to get out of the house for a couple of hours and meet other people for some conversation. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at St. John's Church Centre, Hildenborough from 11.00 – 12.30pm. There is plenty of free parking and disabled facilities on site.

**Julie Rhodes**

## Tonbridge Line Commuters (TLC)

At the time of writing, we're in full preparation mode for our annual general meeting, that's set to take place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July.



For those who are members, you'll probably know the outcome by the time you read this!

The past year has been tough. As chair, I've found my time divided between family, my business, Keys, TLC and various other things. It's been a similar case for my fellow committee members, with us all being pulled in different directions. The combination has meant we've not been anywhere as effective as we'd like to have been.

I'm delighted to say that over the past year, we've co-opted 3 new people onto the committee and all three are keen to take on formal roles. This is such a blessing and I am looking forward to helping them settle in and achieve great things. Whilst this strengthens us immensely, there is still plenty of room for more to join. I'm particularly keen to find regular train users from Hildenborough and Paddock Wood. Nothing beats the daily intelligence from using the service and spotting what's working really well and what needs a bit of encouragement.

As our MP says (page 21), the railway is going through a huge period of overhaul in that the train operating companies are being rolled into the nationalised infrastructure (track, signals etc). There is huge potential here but there is also the continued risk that the Treasury will starve investment and expect the railway to make savings to follow the false idea that it can pay it's own way.

It's generally accepted that railway fares are too expensive and yet huge investment is needed to increase reliability and comfort. As an example, we're desperately awaiting a contract to be signed to replace the white 'networker' trains, where the only air-con is to open all the windows and hope that you can pick up some speed and force air through the carriage! This might mean we need a new logo though... We'd love Hildenborough station to become accessible to all and we're exploring how to fund a feasibility study into whether a ramp could be possible.

Even if the railway doesn't make any money, it still enriches our lives. It enables people to get to work, visit family, head to the coast, experience culture and reduces road traffic congestion. With the intended development in the South East, there simply won't be enough room for all the additional cars so public transport will have to soak up the demand. Our aim is to help the railway develop in a way that works for everyone and strengthens our community.

If you'd like to get involved, I'd love to hear from you. My email address is [robert.mansfield@tonbridgecommuters.org.uk](mailto:robert.mansfield@tonbridgecommuters.org.uk) and my telephone number is 07515 819 860.

***Rob Mansfield - Chair of TLC***

## **Meet the volunteer – Lisa Ewens of Hildenborough Amateur Dramatics Society (HADS)**

### **How long have you lived in the village and who do you live with?**

I live in Tonbridge with my husband, John and our 2 children, Keira and Caden. We've lived in Tonbridge since 2018.

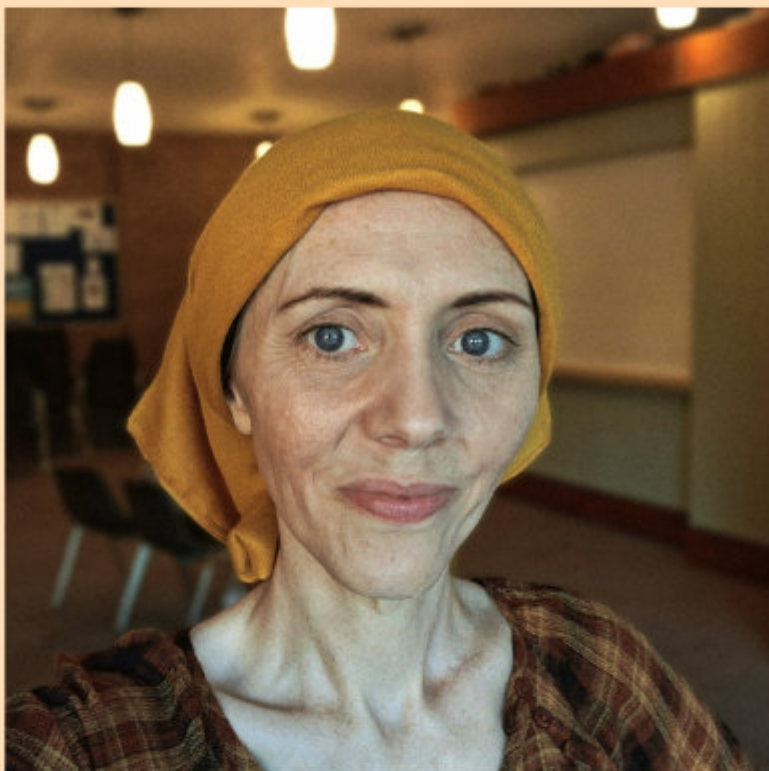
### **What is your role, how long have you been doing it and what does it involve?**

I am a member of the recently formed HADS (Hildenborough Amateur Dramatics Society). I played the role of Prince Charming in our debut pantomime, Cinderella. I am currently playing Tzeitel in Fiddler on the Roof (Tevye and Golde's eldest daughter). My husband, John, is playing alongside me as Motel the Tailor.

**How many hours a week do you spend doing it?** We rehearse every Wednesday evening and Sunday afternoon, in total, rehearsals are typically about 6.5 hours per week currently, as we move closer to the

performance dates, we will be putting in more hours.

**What skills have you picked up in this role?** I am a trained actor and singer, I absolutely love getting to express myself and use my skills in such a fun, friendly and easy going environment. Rich Lake (founder of HADS) is fantastic at making rehearsals fun and engaging; we're not just a theatre group, we're like a family. Rich has a wonderful way of making you feel at ease, he's very



much a man of the people, a real diamond.

**What is the best thing or your best memory about your role?** My role as Prince Charming was so much fun to play (Still picked the

wrong girl to marry though didn't you! – editor). Again, I got to work alongside my amazingly talented husband, John, he was my side kick, Dandini. Being a part of 'Fiddler on the Roof' is an absolute blast too and such a privilege to be a part of such an iconic and classic musical.

**If someone wants to learn more about your role, what is the best way of getting in contact with you?**

If you want to get a taste of what HADS offers come and see 'Fiddler on the Roof' and also meet our lovely director, Rich and even say hello to the cast afterwards, we're a friendly bunch!.

**What is an interesting fact about you?** I've performed at 'The Churchill Theatre' in Bromley in Phillip Pullman's 'His Dark Materials', I was part of the Young Ensemble, so, I wasn't playing a principal role, but it was an amazing experience getting to share the stage with professional actors. Daniel Brocklebank, who's recently played Billy the Vicar in Coronation Street was a member of the cast, he was a nice guy.

**If you were Prime Minister for the day, what would be the first law you passed?** I'd make Drama/Performing Arts a core subject in all schools. Whether it's your passion or



not, I truly believe it is such an important subject as it gives you a platform to express yourself freely, encourages creativity and is a fantastic skill to take with you through life, as it helps to build confidence and communication skills. It is also a wonderful outlet for young people with neurodiversity.

**If you could have a superpower, what would it be and why?** Mind reading because I'm so curious about what people are thinking, I'd love to get inside their minds and explore!

**Tickets for Fiddler on the Roof (24<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> August) are available here:**

**<https://www.ticketsource.com/hildenborough-amateur-dramatics/fiddler-on-the-roof/e-yrbamb>**

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## Hildenborough Cricket Club

Visitors Wrotham (St George's) were three wicket winners in the 35 over-contest. They got home with three balls to spare after being set a target of 170.

Hildenborough won the toss and batted with Mark Davies, back in the country for a couple of weeks after emigrating to Australia at the beginning of the year, hit 39 and Paul Herbert (37 not out). David White (27) and Greg Smith (25) added other useful contributions. Tim Walford was back in the side after breaking his thumb against Horsmonden in the opening game of the season.

Next up, Telston and Mereworth who had replaced the original opponents, clinched a three wicket success with seven balls in hand to win a good close contest.

Hildenborough again decided to bat first, but found run scoring a struggle - Rob Owens made 23 in the total of 117-7, which also included 28 extras. Barry Webb (3-23)

claimed two quick wickets with the total 70, but the Maidstone villagers (118-7) completed the double following a five-wicket success in May.

Hosts Capel Development posted two half centuries but Hildenborough won by 14 runs. Digby

Russell (4-15) and Simon Clark (2-19) claimed early wickets before the home sixth wicket pair repaired the early damage, eventually finishing on 153-8. Another correct coin toss saw Hildenborough again take first knock - the top three batters - Russell Skinner (45), fellow opener James Buckley (28) and Barry Webb (36) - hitting a total of 16 fours between them - as Hildenborough posted 167-7.

### August fixtures

2: Farningham (A)  
9: Wrotham St George's (A)  
16: Petts Wood (A)  
23: Kent Ramblas (H)  
30: Watlington (H)

Anyone wishing to join the club should contact Pete Wood on 07525 082 652.

**Peter Wood**



# ***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!

## **Parkinson's Disease Table Tennis group**

If you are interested in playing a friendly game of table tennis on a Monday afternoon in the St John's Church Centre, please text me on 07977 490 917 or email me at [paul@hildenborough.com](mailto:paul@hildenborough.com).

*Paul Thompson*

## **Woodland walking?**

Keys has received a request from some local landowners. If you are out and about in the ancient woodlands and fields, please treat them with respect.

The woods can be dangerous, especially in the high winds. Please also keep your dogs under control and on their leads, especially around grazing sheep.

We are blessed to live in such a beautiful area and so let's look after it.

*Rob Mansfield - Editor*

## **Hildenborough Gardeners' Society - 130 year Anniversary!**

July 4<sup>th</sup> was the date for our 130-year celebration afternoon tea, held in hot, but not overbearing, weather, with some 40 persons attending. A good time was had by all, eating, toasting, and socially chatting.

place for ideas and planting tips. Our garden store is closed in August, but will re-open in September on Saturday mornings, except for Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>,



Our next outing for members will be to RHS Hyde Hall in Essex – always a good

when we shall hold our Autumn Show in the village hall.

*David Haugh*

## **Step Inside Chevening: Exclusive Summer Fête for Hospice in the Weald**

Enjoy a rare opportunity to explore the beautiful private gardens of Chevening House, near Sevenoaks, at a special Summer Fête hosted by Hospice in the Weald.

The exclusive event, which takes place from 12-5pm on Monday 31st August, offers visitors rare access to one of Kent's most historic and picturesque private estates, while helping to raise vital funds for Hospice in the Weald.

The stunning pleasure grounds of the Earls Stanhope, today run by the Chevening Trust without reliance on public funding, are characterised by lawns and wooded walks around an ornamental lake.

With live music and family friendly garden games, guests are invited to bring a picnic to make the most of the afternoon.

There will be artisan stalls offering goods from local makers and producers, along with a host of delicious refreshments available, including local ice cream and a Pimm's tent.

All proceeds raised go directly to Hospice in the Weald, which provides free care and support to those facing life-limiting illness when they need it most.

Well behaved dogs on leads are welcome and there is ample free parking available on site.

Advance tickets are £12.50 for adults, £2.50 for children over five, and £25 for a family ticket. To book, visit [hospiceintheweald.org.uk](http://hospiceintheweald.org.uk)



**Urban harvesting - Are you struggling to pick and use your garden fruit and veg? Would you like it to be distributed to the local community?**

**Or would you like to come along and pick fruit with us?**

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

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

Picked collections go to doorstep collection, local schools, Hildenborough Food Larder and Nourish in Tunbridge Wells. We've had some delicious products made. This year we created apple juice too which can be used at local community events.

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

It's usually just one or two of us coming along. References available if required. I'd love to hear from:

- garden owners
- would-be volunteers (no experience required),
- those knowledgeable in pruning and fruit tree care,
- chutney and jam makers
- Anyone with picking/storage kit they'd be happy to lend
- Any organisation who would like to receive the harvest



For background information on Urban Harvesting Groups please visit:

- The Abundance Network [www.abundancenetwork.org.uk](http://www.abundancenetwork.org.uk)
- Foodrise <https://gleaning.foodrise.org.uk/about/>

Please get in touch regarding any of the above:

**Becky Mackay, [tonbridgeharvest@hotmail.com](mailto:tonbridgeharvest@hotmail.com) or 07876 026 058**

**Evening WI:** For our July meeting we celebrated our 63<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

The evening started as usual with the business for the month, sharing information and an update on the finances. We also talked about upcoming events - we will be running our cake stall at the band concerts at Tonbridge Castle in July and August as well as one at the church.

As part of our party celebrations we played some old games, we started with a good old-fashioned game of Pass the Parcel. After that we played a variation of the familiar Pin the tail on the Donkey-the WI version, pin the cherry on the cake!! With Marjorie getting the closest and Cheryl coming a close second.

We had all brought in items of food to spell out JULY BIRTHDAY PARTY. We had a great selection from pork pies for P and Lemon Drizzle for D, as well as Yorkshire puddings for Y!! We chatted and caught up on everyone's news while we sampled all this tasty food. It was a very enjoyable evening and lovely to spend time together.

We will take a break in August so our next meeting is **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2026** when our guest speaker will be Helen Stockton who will be giving us her talk "Borders in the Borders" - my gardening dogs.

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.**



**Stapley-President.**



"...and once you've done the flower arrangements, polished the pews, scrubbed the floor, shined the silver and taken a look at the problem with the boiler we wondered, well, you have to laugh, but all six bell-ringers are on holiday at the same time and..."

# T.M.B.C. News

## How Loud?

Many residents in Hildenborough ward will have heard the T90 music event held in Deacons field at the Slade, next to Tonbridge Juddians rugby club. The noise emanating from there was monitored and I thought you might like to be made aware of the results. A total of 8 complaints were lodged with TMBC. I am not defending the Council or the T90 event, but I asked, and here are the facts: There were monitoring positions at Hawden Road, Upper Castle Fields, and the Racecourse footpath (parallel to Barden Park Road) as being representative of some of the closest sensitive receptors. The agreed max music noise levels at those receptors were 65dB (15minute Leq) (essentially an average) and 70dB at 63Hz and 125Hz over 15 minutes which covers the bass frequencies. These are based on levels given in the Code of Practice on Environmental Noise Control at Concerts. Members of the Environmental Protection Team attended over the weekend this year and carried out monitoring at those sites, focusing mainly on the area around Hawden Road, but also Correnden Road on both days due to reports in previous years from there. Officers also attended Leybank on Sunday, following a complaint from there passed on by the event organiser. At Correnden Road and Leybank, whilst music noise was audible, there were no exceedances, so for example;

At Correnden Rd at 20:27 on Sunday. Music was noticeable but well under the limit.  
63Hz 55.7dB  
125Hz 55.2dB  
LAeq 54.7dB

At Leybank at 20:55 on Sunday. Music was just audible, but birdsong at that location was louder and the recording had to be abandoned as the birdsong was

dominating the noisescape. Measurement was stopped after 8m30s.

63Hz 48.7dB  
125Hz 50.8dB  
LAeq 54.5dB

The monitoring at Hawden Road was the focus and results there were very much on the line but kept in check by the event consultant who was spoken to by TMBC officers on several occasions. Given the nature of the event and escape of noise from the site and its audibility at a distance is inevitable but steps to keep levels in line with those in the code of practice were taken. Lastly the licence for events in that area runs to 23.00hrs however a 22.00hr shutdown was agreed with the promoters.

## New Angel Centre

During the full Council meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> July, the Mayor sought permission to convert the meeting to a planning committee; this is due to the requirement for any development on Council land to be debated by all members. Members agreed to the erection of a new leisure centre to facilitate the relocation of the Angel Leisure Centre. The land in question is the Sovereign Way Mid Car Park.

## Town Council

Following a decision made at full council in February 2025 and the submission of a valid petition, the Council consulted residents on whether a town council should be formed in Tonbridge to provide some local services. Community Governance Reviews (CGR) are a process where councils can consult on local governance arrangements, including the creation of new parish or town councils. The review considered: Whether a town council should be established, Potential boundaries for the town council, and electoral arrangements, including the number of councillors. The final decision was made by Council, following

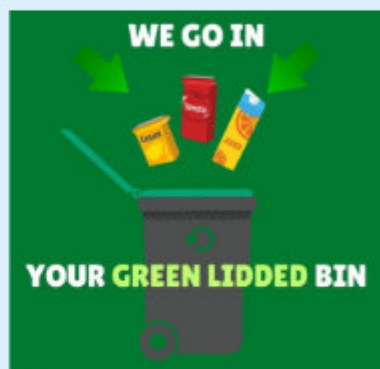
completion of the review process. On Tuesday 24 February, a meeting of the council agreed the recommendations to create a new Town Council in Tonbridge. This concludes the Community Governance Review, so the setting up phase of the Tonbridge Town Council will begin which is due to go live in May 2027 (First elections) following the scheduled Parish/Town Councils elections.

Borough councillors approved recommendations confirming: eighteen elected councillors, six wards across the town and for the unparished part of Hildenborough ward, a new ward of Oast has been named. The picture shows all six wards.



## Tetra Packs

And finally, Tetra cartons, the ones with the folded ends can now be recycled in the green lidded bin.



✓ Remember, cartons can now be recycled! If it's a liquid carton — juice, milk, soup or sauce — it goes in your green-lidded recycling bin.

## 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. Even, if it's about planning.

## Council Meetings

Please remember Council meetings are still streamed on YouTube, however public attendance is permitted in the Council Chamber.

***Cllr Mark Rhodes***

### **Borough Councillors**

c/o TMBC, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, ME19 4LZ

Kath Barton

[kath.barton@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:kath.barton@tmbc.gov.uk)

Mark Rhodes 01732 914 166

[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**

## The Night Sky in Hildenborough – August

August is going to be a busy month for astronomers with eclipses of both the Sun and Moon plus the Perseid meteor shower to look forward to.

The biggest of these three events will be the partial eclipse of the Sun which takes place on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August in the late afternoon and early evening. It's worth noting that although the Sun is at a reasonable altitude at the beginning, towards the end it will be very low so a careful choice of site is important with a good west-north-westerly horizon being an advantage.

The eclipse begins at 6:18pm when the body of the Moon will begin to encroach onto the Sun's disk from the west (the right). At that time the Sun will be due west with an altitude of approximately 20°. Gradually more of the Sun will be obscured with a progressively smaller and smaller crescent remaining until 7:13pm when maximum eclipse occurs as 91.4% of our star is covered. By then the Sun will be just 10° high and a little north-west of west. The event ends at 8:07pm as the Moon finally leaves the Sun's disk. At that time, it will be just 2½° in altitude in the west-north-west.

I must discuss safety here because using **any** form of optical aid to view the Sun will result in serious eye damage or even blindness. This is because not only is the visible part of the spectrum (white light) focussed onto your eye but also the dangerous ultra violet (UV) and infra-red (IR) radiation.

The safest way to view an eclipse of the Sun is to use "eclipse glasses" which can be bought for a few pounds from reputable dealers such as First Light Optics at <https://www.firstlightoptics.com/>

who have dealt in optical equipment for many years. These "glasses" are usually made of cardboard, in the shape of regular glasses with special filters instead of glass lenses. There are also rectangular hand-held viewers made with the same filters. However, **do not** think you can look through a telescope safely whilst using one of these. **You cannot!**

That same night, 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> August, sees maximum activity from the Perseid meteor shower, so called because the meteors appear to radiate from the constellation of Perseus. It should be dark enough by 10pm to begin observing although predictions suggest that there will be more activity later and particularly after midnight. Because the Moon is so close to the Sun it won't interfere with meteor observing in any way. If the sky is clear we should see a meteor every 3 or 4 minutes on average.

If you plan to spend any longer than a few minutes meteor watching then I suggest you use a sun lounger with the head end slightly raised, pointing either north west towards the Plough or east/south east towards the Square of Pegasus. You will almost certainly find that you see infinitely more artificial satellites than you do meteors.

The last of the "Big Three" events is a partial eclipse of the Moon which occurs on 28<sup>th</sup> August. The drawback to this event is that it occurs in the early hours of the morning with it beginning at 3.33am.

An eclipse of the Moon is different from that of the Sun because it is the Moon moving into the shadow cone that the Earth casts out into space. That shadow cone is always there, it's just that it is only occasionally that the Moon moves into it, causing an eclipse. It is perfectly safe to observe eclipses of the Moon with all kinds of optical aid.

As I've said the eclipse begins at 3.33am with maximum eclipse occurring at 5.12am when the Moon is 93% eclipsed. Then at 6:11am the Moon will set (in the WSW) as seen from our part of the country so we will not see the end of the

partial phase at 6:51am. Hopefully, with clear skies we will see the Moon turn a reddish-brown colour around the time of maximum eclipse.

**Brian Mills FRAS**



### **From our MP: Tom Tugendhat**

Whether you're commuting to work, heading into London or visiting family and friends, our railways are an essential part of daily life. This summer brings both engineering work affecting local services and a major national reform with the creation of Great British Railways.

Many residents travelling via the South East mainline or the Maidstone East line will notice changes to services over the summer while Network Rail carries out engineering work. Between 26 July and 16 August, trains to London Charing Cross and London Waterloo East will not operate as normal due to the closure of these stations. Whilst the vital engineering work takes place, trains will not be running as usual and will have journeys cut short or diverted. If you're travelling during the summer holidays, I encourage you to check your journey before setting off.

This comes at a time when Britain's railway system is undergoing one of its biggest changes in a generation. Great British Railways will gradually bring passenger services together under a single national organisation. While the tracks

have been publicly owned for many years, the train operators will also move under Great British Railways, replacing the current system of different operating companies.

Whatever the structure of our railways, what matters most is whether passengers receive a reliable service they can depend on. My concern is that decisions affecting communities like ours must not become lost within a much larger national system. I will continue making the case for investment in our stations and services, ensuring that the needs of passengers across our communities, whether travelling via Tonbridge or the Maidstone East line, remain firmly on the agenda.

For more information on the closures and how it will affect your journey go to [www.networkrail.co.uk](http://www.networkrail.co.uk).

If you would like to get in contact with me, my details are below:

E-mail – [tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk)

Phone – 01732 441563

Social Media - @TomTugendhat

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

**Tom Tugendhat**

# Centre Piece

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

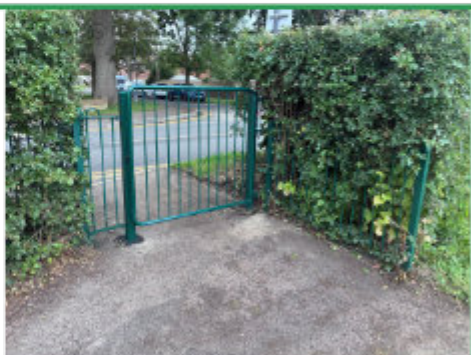
Contact: Louise Jenner (Clerk) - 07818 329 029 [clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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

## New Gate and Signage at the Recreation Ground

Following suggestions from two residents, Hildenborough Parish Council has completed improvement works to the middle pathway entrance gateway at the Recreation Ground. Working with an appointed contractor, the Parish Council has installed a new gate and clear signage along the middle pathway, which leads out onto the road. The improvement makes the route safer and easier to use for everyone visiting the Recreation Ground.



## Flora Survey Underway at the Recreation Ground



Residents may have noticed some marked-out areas at the bottom of the Recreation Ground recently. These are part of a flora species survey the Parish Council has commissioned to help us better understand the plant life in this area.

We're working with Medway Valley

Countryside Partnership, who are carrying out the survey on our behalf. Their findings will give us a detailed picture of the species across the lower field and how we may be able to enhance the area in the future.

## Footpath Update

We have received a further update from the footpath contractor that they will be starting works on the second pathway on 17<sup>th</sup> August. If we receive any further information, we will update residents via our website and social media page.



### **New Swing and Play Park Cleaning.**

A new nest swing has been installed at West Wood Park for families to enjoy. The Parish Council is also pleased to advise that the annual play park cleaning is due to take place shortly. A confirmed date is currently awaited from the contractor, and residents will be kept informed via the Parish Council website and social media.

### **Local Plan Update: Regulation 19 Consultation Expected in September**

Hildenborough Parish Council is encouraging residents to stay informed as the next stage of Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council's Local Plan approaches. Following the earlier Regulation 18 consultation, the Borough Council is now expected to publish the Regulation 19 stage of its Local Plan in September. This is the next formal step in the process, at which residents will be able to review the proposals and submit their comments.

The Local Plan will help shape how the borough — including Hildenborough — develops over the coming years, covering matters such as housing and land use. The Parish Council is keen to ensure that as many residents as possible are aware of the consultation and have the opportunity to have their say.

The Parish Council will share further details as soon as they become available, including how and when residents can take part once the Regulation 19 consultation goes live.

In the meantime, residents can keep up to date by visiting the Hildenborough Parish Council website at [www.hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk) or the Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council website at [www.tmbc.gov.uk](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk).

### **Could You Be Our Next Councillor?**

Hildenborough Parish Council currently has a vacancy for a Parish Councillor, to be filled by co-option. This is a fantastic opportunity to play an active role in your local community, helping to shape decisions on matters that affect residents across the parish. No prior experience is necessary — just enthusiasm, an interest in local issues, and a commitment to serving the community. If you live in the parish and would like to find out more, please contact the Parish Clerk.

There is no Parish Council meeting in August so there will be no Keys Magazine update in September from the Parish Council.

[www.hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Contact Hildenborough Parish Council Parish Clerk at 07818 329029 or email [clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk). The Parish Council's green post box is located at the rear of the Pavilion Building on Riding Lane.



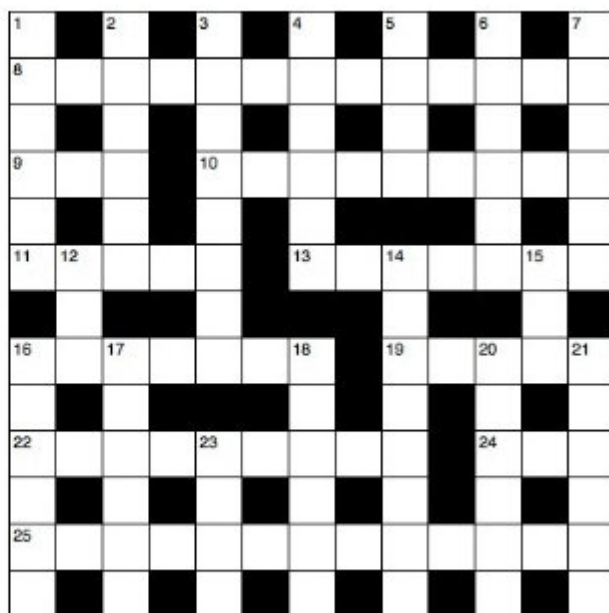
## Crossword clues & answers

### Across

- 8 One of the titles given to the Messiah in Isaiah's prediction (Isaiah 9:6) (6,2,5)  
 9 International Nepal Fellowship (1,1,1)  
 10 Single (1 Corinthians 7:27) (9)  
 11 Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's seminal book about Soviet prison camps, The — Archipelago (5)  
 13 Treachery (2 Kings 11:14) (7)  
 16 Of India (anag.) (2,3,2)  
 19 'God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the —' (1 Corinthians 4:9) (5)  
 22 Follower of a theological system characterized by a strong belief in predestination (9)  
 24 'Put these old rags and worn-out clothes under your arms to— the ropes' (Jeremiah 38:12) (3)  
 25 They brought together all the elders of the Israelites in Egypt (Exodus 4:29) (5,3,5)

### Down

- 1 The season when kings 'go off to war' (2 Samuel 11:1) (6)  
 2 Simon Peter's response to Jesus by the Sea of Galilee: 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a — man' (Luke 5:8) (6)  
 3 Beaten with whips (1 Kings 12:11) (8)  
 4 'You shall not — adultery' (Exodus 20:14) (6)  
 5 Encourage (Hebrews 10:24) (4)  
 6 Service of morning prayer in the Church of England (6)  
 7 'Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and — him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving' (4,2)  
 12 Run (anag.) (3)  
 14 Member of 17th-century party that denied the right of autonomy to the Church (8)  
 15 'We will triumph with our tongues; we—our lips' (Psalm 12:4) (3)  
 16 Earnings (1 Corinthians 16:2) (6)  
 17 'I rejoice greatly in the Lord that — you have renewed your concern for me' (Philippians 4:10) (2,4)  
 18 How Paul described Philemon (Philemon 1) (6)  
 20 Multiple territories under the rule of a single state (Daniel 11:4) (6)  
 21 'You have been unfaithful; you have married foreign women,—to Israel's guilt' (Ezra 10:10) (6)  
 23 This month (abbrev.) (4)



## Wordsearch clues & answers

### John the Baptist

This month, on the 29<sup>th</sup>, we remember John the Baptist. By all accounts, he had a rough life. He grew up in obscurity, lived in the desert on a diet of bugs. He wore itchy camel hair. He worked in the heat of the sun, constantly challenging people, and wading in and out of muddy Jordan waters to baptise many. Then he was arrested and kept in a reeking, infested dungeon until one day they cut his head off. Not much comfort in that life. Yet the Bible tells us that of all the people in history, no one has ever been born who was as great as him. Why? Because of the unique calling God gave him, which was to prepare the way for the coming ministry of his Son, Jesus. Jesus did not have an easy life, either.

John  
Baptist  
Rough  
Obscurity  
Desert

Bugs  
Camel  
Heat  
Sun  
Challenge

Muddy  
Jordan  
Arrested  
Dungeon  
Head

Cut  
History  
Great  
Unique  
prepare

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | E | Q | E | U | Q | I | N | U | D | E |
| G | G | C | R | C | Y | D | D | U | M | E |
| N | G | B | A | P | T | I | S | T | S | A |
| E | G | M | P | R | I | G | R | E | A | T |
| L | E | B | E | Y | R | O | T | S | I | H |
| L | N | I | R | R | U | E | B | C | A | G |
| A | J | A | P | E | C | U | S | U | T | U |
| H | H | O | D | E | S | E | R | T | Y | O |
| C | E | E | H | R | B | U | G | S | E | R |
| U | A | A | M | N | O | E | G | N | U | D |
| D | D | U | T | Y | R | J | H | T | E | S |



## Sudoku - easy and medium puzzles

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

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



...Rodney, I've been meaning to have a word with you about your carbon footprint!



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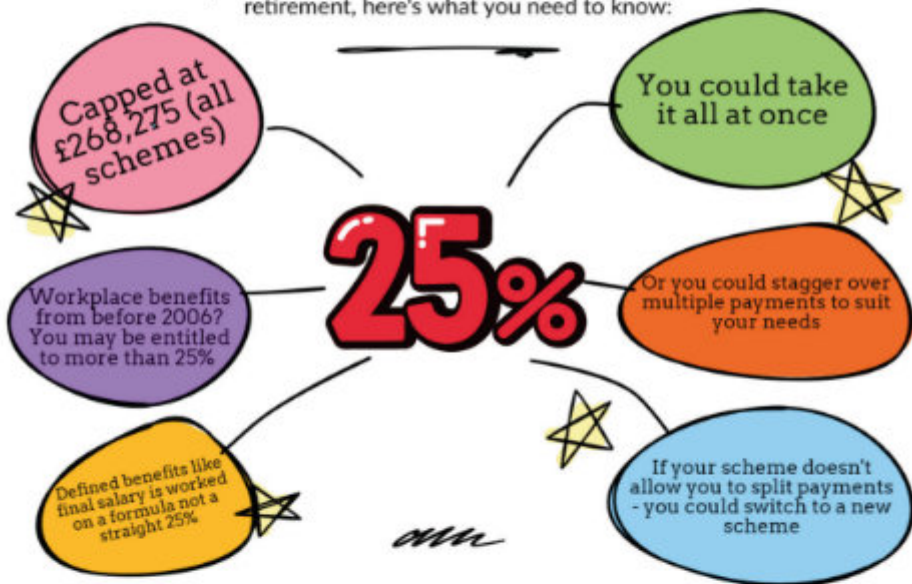


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# Local Directory

## Church Contacts

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

Church Office **01732 833 596**  
Cynthia Fawcus **01732 833 397**  
Lisa Glasscote **01732 833 596**  
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## Community Groups

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

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

Brownies  
Hildenborough Amateur Dramatics  
Hildenborough Conservation Group  
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Sharon Roberts - **07960 782 178**

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Hildenborough History Society  
Village Preservation Society  
Hildenborough Litter Pickers  
Hildenborough Parish Council  
Hildenborough CofE Primary School  
Stocks Green Primary School  
Stocks Green Pre-School

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**

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Hildenborough Friendly Badminton Club

Ivan Kirkpatrick **07730 888 429**

Stoolball Club

Lauren Welch **07999 604 213**

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Hildenborough Road Races

**hildenroadrace@gmail.com**

Tonbridge Swimming Club

**chairman@tonbridgeswimmingclub.co.uk**

Tonbridge Bridge Club

Lionel Shields **01732 355 919**

# Hilden Park

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## MANDATORY PAYROLLING OF BENEFITS IN KIND: PHASED INTRODUCTION CONFIRMED

HMRC has confirmed that mandatory payrolling of benefits in kind (BiKs) will now be introduced in two phases, starting from 6 April 2027. This change will move the reporting of most benefits away from annual P11Ds and into real-time payroll, resulting in Income Tax and Class 1A National Insurance being reported through the payroll each pay period (e.g. weekly or monthly).

From April 2027, the first phase will apply to:

- Company cars and car fuel
- Vans and van fuel
- Employer-provided medical benefits

From April 2028, most other benefits will be brought into the regime, although beneficial loans and employer-provided living accommodation will remain voluntary.

Under the new system, employers will report benefits

through payroll each pay period using RTI, rather than reporting them after the year end. While this change will reduce the need for year-end forms, it increases the importance of getting payroll right throughout the year. Errors will be picked up more quickly, and corrections may need to be made in real-time.

There is still time to prepare. HMRC is continuing to work with software providers and will release further technical guidance during 2026, with final details expected ahead of the Autumn Budget.

Employers should start planning now. Review the benefits you currently provide and identify which will fall into the first phase. This is a significant shift in how benefits are taxed and reported. Preparing early will reduce disruption and make the transition much smoother.

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