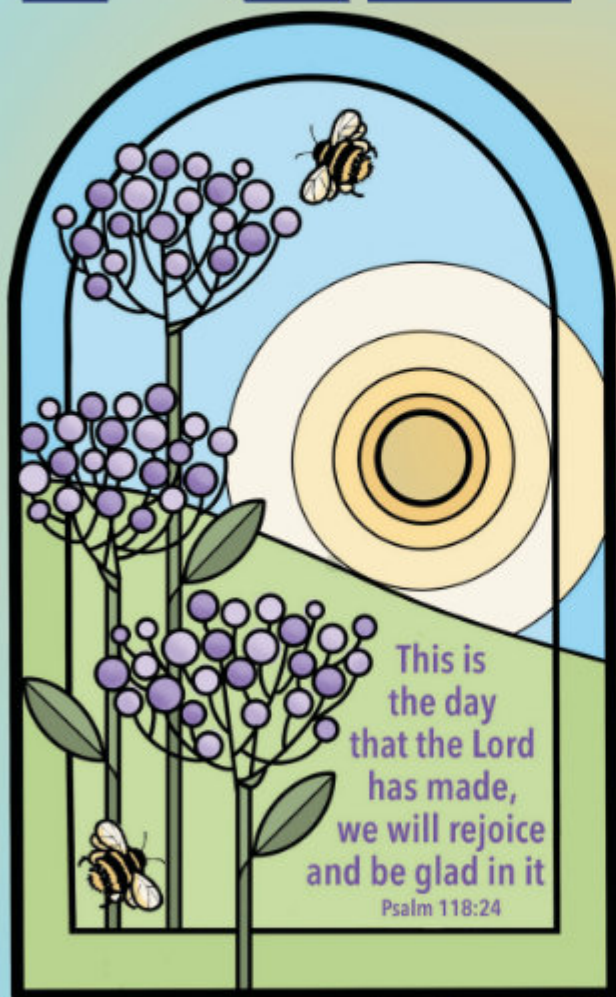




CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NEWS

# KEYS

HILDENBOROUGH



## Inside:

**HADS - "Fiddler on the Roof" Coming in August**

**Foodlarder - takeaway special**

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**Summer Fair - 25<sup>th</sup> July**

**July 2026**

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# From the Church



## The Lost Art of Wonder

Have you ever noticed how children can be fascinated by things adults hardly see?

A butterfly in the garden.

A ladybird on a leaf.

A rainbow after the rain.

A cloud shaped like a dragon.

Children have a remarkable capacity for wonder. The ordinary world is alive with mystery and possibility. Yet somewhere along the journey to adulthood, many of us lose that gift. Life becomes familiar. We become busy. We stop noticing.

The sunrise becomes something we drive through on our way to work. The changing seasons become little more than dates on a calendar. The beauty that surrounds us every day slowly fades into the background. We become experts at getting from one task to the next, but novices again at simply paying attention. Perhaps one of the greatest losses in

modern life is not simply that we are busy, but that we have forgotten how to be amazed. The Bible repeatedly invites us to pay attention.

***“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.”***  
(Psalm 19:1)

Creation is not merely a collection of objects. It is a signpost pointing beyond itself. Every flower, every star, every sunset whispers something about the God who made them. Jesus himself seemed to notice things others overlooked. He pointed to birds in the sky, lilies in the field, seeds scattered on the ground, and fishermen casting their nets. He saw the extraordinary hidden within the ordinary. While others rushed past, Jesus paused and noticed.

Perhaps that is part of what faith involves. Not escaping the world, but learning to see it differently. Not seeing less, but seeing more.

The writer G.K. Chesterton once suggested that the world will never lack wonders; what it lacks is wonder. There is wisdom in that observation. We live in an age of astonishing technology and endless information, yet many

people seem less captivated by life than ever before.

July offers us an opportunity to rediscover something we may have lost. The gardens are full of colour. The countryside is alive with growth. The evenings stretch a little longer. The natural world is putting on a display that many of us barely notice because we are looking at screens rather than skies.

Perhaps this month we might choose to slow down. To watch a sunset without checking our phones. To sit quietly in a garden and listen to birdsong. To walk through the countryside and marvel at the beauty around us.

To notice the people we love and the blessings we too often take for granted. Wonder is not childish. It may be one of the most mature spiritual disciplines we can recover. For wonder leads naturally to gratitude, and gratitude leads naturally to worship.

This month, wherever you find yourself, take a moment to pause and look again. You may discover that God has been speaking through the beauty around you 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 Saiset     | 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>             |
| <b>Church Volunteers</b>           |                    |   |
| 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>             |
| Archivist                          | Vacant             |   |
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| Distribution                       | Clem Giles         | 01732 833 543<br><a href="mailto:clemgiles@hotmail.com">clemgiles@hotmail.com</a>                                     |
| Advertising                        | Liz Ridley         | <a href="mailto:advertising@keysmagazine.co.uk">advertising@keysmagazine.co.uk</a>                                    |

## What's on in July?

| Church Services   |   |
|---|---|
| Sunday 9.15am – 10.30am<br>Communion 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month                | A contemporary service with a programme for children and youth. Breakfast is served from 8.45am and everyone is welcome.  |
| Sunday 11am – 12.15pm   | A more traditional service with hymns, regular Holy Communion.  |
| Tuesday 11.15am – 12 noon   | Morning prayer – a peaceful time for connection with God.   |
| Community   |   |
| <b>Monday - weekly</b><br>10-11.45am<br>Church Centre £3/family                         | <b>Bright Sparks Toddler Group</b><br>A fun filled haven for little ones providing a safe space for play and a chance for carers and parents to connect.                                |
| <b>Tuesday - weekly</b><br>11.30am -1pm, weekly<br>Church Centre                        | <b>Community Larder</b><br>To help reduce food waste and stretch weekly household budgets.  |
| <b>Wednesday 8 July</b><br>11am in the Church Centre<br>(Second Wednesday of the month) | <b>Forget-me-not Café</b><br>Whilst some of those who come to the café live with dementia, others may have memory loss or care for a person with dementia. Join us for coffee and cake. |
| <b>Thursday 2 July</b><br>2.15pm, Hyllden Heights Service                               | <b>Monthly service at Hyllden Heights Care Home</b>   |
| <b>Thursday &amp; Friday</b><br>9am – 2pm<br>Church Centre                              | <b>Angel Café</b><br>A welcoming space for all ages, perfect for a delicious treat and a chat. <b>Closes during school holidays.</b>  |
| <b>Saturday 4 July</b><br>9.30am-11am,<br>Church Centre                                 | <b>Who let the dads out?</b><br>Play time for Dads and kids up to 6, soft play and breakfast included.  |
| Children & Young People   |   |
| <b>Sundays, 9.15-10.30am</b><br>Term time only  | <b>Generation Creation</b><br>For primary school aged children and young people years 6 and above. Start in the church and move to the Church Centre.                                   |

**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***

# St Johns Summer Fair 2026

## Volunteers Needed

- Bric-a-brac
- Glitter tattoos
- Hook a duck
- Balloons
- Bottle tombola

**Saturday 25 July 2026**  
12 noon to 3pm

We need some people to help us by staffing these stalls. Can you help?  
If so, please contact the  
Church Office at  
[office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk](mailto:office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk)

- Chocolate tombola
- Craft area
- Lucky dip
- Soft play
- Stocks and sponge
- Teddy tombola

### Summer Fair donations wanted

Would you like to donate some items to be sold or gifted? We're particularly looking for Bric-a-brac, bottles, chocolate and teddy bears.

Please contact the office - 01732 833 596 to make arrangements.

## WHO LET THE DADS OUT?

Wide range  
of kids play  
equipment

£3 per family; includes hot breakfast sandwich  
and refreshments

Next 3 Dates.

July 4<sup>th</sup>, Aug 1<sup>st</sup>, Sept 5<sup>th</sup>

Meet other  
local Dads  
and have fun

9:30-11am

Church Centre, Foxbush TN11 9HT

For children  
aged 0-6





**St John's Presents:-**

**The All-New Summer Fair**

**Sat July 25th 12-3pm**

**Giant  
Inflatables**

**Facepainting**

**Craft  
Stalls**

**Cream Teas**



**Popcorn &  
Slushies**



**BBQ**

**Free  
Entry!**

**Traditional  
Stalls**



**Live Music**



# Forget-me-not Cafés



*Companionship over a cuppa*



Just as our June Café was about to open the heavens opened and it

poured hard, many of our customers had to sit in their cars and wait for the rain clouds to pass over. Then the sun came out and the pavements were steaming!

We welcomed Iris Heasman as our morning's entertainment. Iris had not been to the Hildenborough Café before, and she is a very good singer. Do you remember Helen Shapiro, Etta James and Patsy Cline? Iris sang songs Walking back to Happiness, Crazy and At Last and many more, also the song I wanna be loved by you by Marilyn Monroe which was fun.

There will be a Forget-me-not Café throughout the summer as we do not close in July or August so we look forward to seeing you through the summer months.



We are always very grateful to Hildenborough Farmers' Market for the donation of flowers to the Café which are put in vases on the tables and then when the café has finished, we give all the ladies a small posy of flowers to take home.

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**

**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

## Meet the volunteer – Paul Thompson - making takeaways for the Hildenborough community food larder



Now that the larder is established and running smoothly, I have spent most of my time preparing soups and puddings for the Wednesday Warm Hub which ran from October to March.

I also prepare takeaway meals available at the Larder and the Warm Hub from any leftover goods which we have been unable to redistribute. Check out the photos of meals for the Warm Hub and takeaways that we have cooked and beautifully photographed by the talented local resident Sid Ali.



**How long have you lived in the village and who do you live with?** I have lived in the village for over 30 years with my wife and two now adult children.

**What is your volunteering role?** I am volunteering at the Hildenborough Community Larder each Tuesday and have done since it started six months ago. I was proud to join the existing volunteers in moving it from a food bank to a larder.

**What is a community larder?** The community Larder is for anyone who would like to reduce food waste and make their weekly budget go a little further. All the fresh fruit, vegetables and bakery goods distributed would otherwise go to waste. At the same time, we remain committed to supporting those in need by providing food staples.

**How many hours a week do you spend doing it?** I started on just a couple of hours a week, but as I enjoy cooking, feeding people, am passionate about reducing food waste, have free time and enjoy it I can spend up to a day and a half each week.





**What skills have you picked up in this role?** Cooking for thirty plus people is quite a transition from cooking Sunday lunch, and much creativity is involved in turning a mystery box of leftover ingredients into wholesome and tasty food.

**What is the best thing or your best memory about your role?** The most rewarding part of volunteering is working in a friendly and enthusiastic team sharing out good food that would otherwise be wasted.

**What is the worst thing or your worst memory about your role?** The washing up!

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

Hub when it restarts in October and see what we do or contact us via the Keys contacts page. Volunteers are always welcome even for just one hour a week and without them these initiatives wouldn't exist.

**What is an interesting fact about you?** I created the no-leftovers.com website in pre-Covid days.

I took early retirement last year following a Parkinson diagnosis and one of its symptoms is I lost my sense of smell so those working with me get to taste the food first.

*Paul Thompson*

**The Hildenborough Community Larder runs every Tuesday 11:30 to 1pm in the Church Hall.**

— SUPPORT LOCAL COMMUNITY THEATRE —

Hildenborough Amateur Dramatic Society presents

# FIDDLER ON THE ROOF



St John's Church Centre,  
Hildenborough

24th–29th August

**Local theatre. Real impact.**

Support *Fiddler on the Roof*  
and St John's Church.

This summer's production helps fund  
the show's staging costs while also supporting  
St John's Church and community projects in Hildenborough.

## SPONSORSHIP FROM £25

Friend of HADS £25

Bronze £50–£149

Silver £150–£349

Gold £350+



Scan for details

Interested in sponsoring?

Scan for details or contact

Neil Haggart

[neilhaggart@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk](mailto:neilhaggart@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk)

# HILDENBOROUGH



## FARMERS' MARKET



Do you get your “5-a-day”? What’s that I hear you say? The 5-a-day goal is an official dietary guideline for a standard adult to give a healthy balanced diet with a

recommendation to eat five portions of fruit and veg every day to reduce the risk of health problems.



Why are we mentioning fruit and veg? Because here at the Hildenborough Farmers’ Market we have the perfect stall for you to come and get a wide variety of all things good for you in the fruit and vegetable department. Every week Mocketts Farm Shop run by Vanda have a huge selection from potatoes, leeks, courgettes and asparagus, from apples, strawberries, peppers, celery and tomatoes. We are spoilt for choice as Vanda also sells eggs and fruit juices. It is

a lovely stall to look at with all the colours of the rainbow.



The **school summer holidays** are approaching and the Market will be having different children’s activities throughout the summer break. Watch this space for more information.

Hildenborough Farmers’ Market is open every Tuesday morning from 8.00 to 11.00 am in the Hildenborough Village Hall in Riding Lane. There is also the Market Café where you can get a cup of coffee and a cake and enjoy sitting and chatting with friends after all that retail therapy!



You may have seen our advert on social media for help needed at the Market to set up the stalls and to clear everything away at the end. If you think you can help please contact Nick the Market Manager on: [managerhildenboroughfm@gmail.com](mailto:managerhildenboroughfm@gmail.com).

## ***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*

### **The Oast Theatre, Tonbridge - "Gentleman Jack" by Ross McGregor - 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> JULY 2026**

"Gentleman Jack" was the nickname given to Ann Lister – a bold heiress from a minor landowning family in late nineteenth century Yorkshire. A woman beyond her time, she was entrepreneurial and daring. The play, based on her diaries, is funny and moving. It is a seductive tale of desire and defiance.

Performances: 8.00 p.m. (Sunday Matinee 3.00 p.m.) - tickets: £14

Book online at [www.oasttheatre.com](http://www.oasttheatre.com) or on 03336 663 366 (booking fee applies)

### **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. The more people we have helping out, the more we can spread the load and re-jiggle routes to suit everyone.

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

### **Hildenborough Historical Society quarterly meeting**

**Ed Adams – Kentish Clerical Errors.**

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 7.15pm, Village Hall**

We invite you to hear this author of several historical books on Wealden Kent villages published by Canterley Press. He is an experienced and acclaimed speaker. From his historical research, he has some amusing, some shocking and some thought-provoking stories of ministerial misbehaviour and priestly peccadilloes that contrast the Christian behaviour we demand from our clergy today.

*Tony Atkinson, chairman - [atkinsontony@btinternet.com](mailto:atkinsontony@btinternet.com)*

***Shrewed!* Open Air Shakespeare: White Rock Inn,  
Underriver TN15 0SB  
25-28<sup>th</sup> June & 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> July**

Sevenoaks Shakespeare's *Shrewed!* is a new, witty one-act adaptation of 'Taming of the Shrew' re-imagined against a backdrop of 1940s Britain. Enjoy a village fete atmosphere, with live music from **The Jean Bentley Band**, market stalls and food/drink available from the pub.

**Open air:** bring your own chairs/rugs and extra layers in case it gets chilly.  
*No picnics please.*


**Times:** 7.45pm on Thursdays & Fridays; 3.45pm on Saturdays & Sundays

**Tickets:** Available from [www.sevenoaksshakespeare.co.uk](http://www.sevenoaksshakespeare.co.uk) (£15 or £5 under 16) also on the door (£17).

**Duration:** 90 mins, no interval

**Step into the story – enjoy high-spirited performances and toe-tapping sound!**



** Deer Sightings on Mill Lane – Evidence Needed for Safety Signage**

Residents have reported regular sightings of wild deer on Mill Lane, as well as in nearby gardens and fields bordering the busy B245 in the north of the village. While these animals are a welcome part of our local wildlife, their presence on or near the lane poses a genuine safety concern for road users.

Kent Highways have advised that they can only consider installing a **cautionary deer-warning sign** if they receive photo or video evidence of deer on the lane itself. Unfortunately, sightings in nearby gardens or fields by Mill Lane do not meet the criteria required for signage approval!

If you live on or travel along Mill Lane and have camera footage showing deer on the lane, please pass it on to Kent Highways or the Clerk at Hildenborough Parish Council so it can be submitted as supporting evidence.

Deer have been spotted in the early hours of the night and mornings. Your help could make the lane safer for everyone who uses it.

*Eva Charrington*

**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***

## **Hildenborough Road Races -The last word**

Last year we celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Event and all competitors received a medal to record the fact. It was a very successful day all round but, unfortunately, it was the third and last to be organised by Amy Pay and her team during that time, including Mark and Chris Taylor. Finding one replacement for such a big Event was difficult so finding a team to do so proved impossible and we had to call it a day.

Our journey began in the Autumn of 1984 in a meeting at Hildenborough School involving the Scouts and Netball and Badminton Clubs. Plans were made for a Scouts Bonfire Night and a Fun Run on May Day. Both became an annual Event held for many years although some local opposition stopped the Bonfire Night about 10 years ago. No one foresaw the longevity of the two at that original meeting.

Speaking for the Road Races, which early on became the new title of the much expanding day of Olympian Athleticism, they only brought positives to the Village and its inhabitants. Runners from here and elsewhere in the county and beyond were encouraged by many people enjoying this and other distractions in the Recreation Ground plus sprinklings of support around the course. Very popular races for children, in the safety of the Rec, grew in support each year with over 200 children, in the later years, deserving and getting a medal for their efforts. Funds raised went back into the Community with both State Schools receiving financial support on several occasions and most Village Sports Clubs were also successful.

Thank you Amy and your team for the last 3 years which can be regarded as the best ever. Some Villagers actually helped us by acting as Marshalls, Timekeepers etc for much of that time and deserve a medal so a big thank you to them also.

*Pat Davies*

## **Hildenborough Cricket Club**

Greg Smith continued his good form with a 65 not out in a four-wicket defeat at home to Brasted Invicta. The match was switched from the opponents ground due to a wet pitch. He and debutant Max Garner (52 not out off 57 balls including seven fours and six)- his first senior half century added 85 - having come together at 81-5, boosting the total to 166-5 in 40 overs. Invicta lost early wickets but got home with almost 10 overs to spare.

Smith's unbeaten hundred was the highlight in the 40 run victory over Kent Ramblas. He shared stands of 109 with Rob Owen (35) and 81 with opening partner JP Martens in a total of 241-3 in 35 overs. Owens and Paul Herbert claimed impressive catches which helped

check Ramblas' reply - Herbert and Barry Webb claiming three wickets each - while Martens and another debutant Adam Barden claimed plaudits for their work in the field, helping dismiss Ramblas for 240.

Richard Sparks hit 51 as Hildenborough (108) lost by five wickets at Telston and Mereworth.

Another Maidstone village side East Sutton stepped in to provide the opposition as original opponents Lamorbey Park cried off. They made 186-5 - restricting Hildenborough to only 126 to win by 60 runs.

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

*Peter Wood*

# T.M.B.C. News

## Safer Neighbourhoods

The Council has contracted 'TMS Protection' to provide a Safer Neighbourhoods Team. A team of four split into two teams will operate 42 hours a week, Wednesday to Sunday. They will provide high visibility patrols and reassurance across the Borough and are there to enforce the Borough Council's Public Space Protection Order. The Chief Constable, Tim Smith has certified TMS Protection under the 'Community Safety Accreditation Scheme'. This allows TMS certain designated powers including, Power to require name and address for Anti Social Behaviour, Power to deal with begging, Power to stop cycles, Power to require persons under 18 to surrender alcohol, Power to issue fixed penalty notices for graffiti, fly posting and littering and Power to direct traffic. There are more. Accredited personnel may only exercise designated powers following successful completion of vetting, approved training and the formal issuance of a powers identification card. TMS use a black and blue uniform with reflective patches and body cameras. The aim of the teams is to help create a safer environment for residents, businesses and visitors.

## Embankment Scheme

Along with Parish Councillors and Flood Wardens, I visited the newly constructed Hildenborough Embankment Scheme. The actual embankment measures about 10metres wide by 1 metre high.

The pumps that are installed will remove water from the Hildenborough side of the Penstock Chamber, should the gate be closed due to flooding from the Medway, and are rated at 1 cubic metre of water per second; there are two of them. To see a graphic of the system in action, if you are online, type in 'Hildenborough Embankment Scheme' on YouTube. The system is run by power from the grid, but

an emergency generator has been housed in a purpose-built unit that is situated on higher ground. I would criticise the colour of the steel water pipes, I suppose because it is a water pipe they are turquoise and rather stick out, I would have thought grey or green would be more in keeping with the surrounding area. The system has been tested.

Operatio: During normal times, Penstock gate across Hawden Stream is open with water flowing as usual.

In flood times, as the water flows back upstream towards Hildenborough, the Penstock gate closes. Water then rises on the Hildenborough side, causing it to flow into a catchment area and is then pumped over the embankment into the downstream floodplain.

Picture 1 shows Hawden Stream entering Penstock.



Picture 2 shows catchment area, screen and pumps (about 1.3m high).



Picture 3 shows output pipes from pumps and rubber nozzles.



### **Banking Hub**

In case you are unaware Tonbridge Banking Hub is due to locate in the shop that was the most recent Wimpey Bar. No 1 The Pavilion. The bank suppliers will very likely have their own days for attendance.

### **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 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**

## The Night Sky in Hildenborough – July

The 6<sup>th</sup> of July at precisely 6:30pm sees planet Earth as far from the Sun as it can get for the entire year. To astronomers, this is known as aphelion, and in case you're wondering, we will be a little over 152 million kilometres away which, in round numbers, is about 5 million kilometres further away than we were at our closest in January. This variation in distance has a negligible effect on temperatures, with the tilt of the Earth's axis being responsible for our seasons and their related temperature changes. There was a full description of this, along with a diagram, in last July's edition which I'm sure you will have preserved for posterity.

In the evening sky we seem to have gone from a rash of planets to just one, although perhaps brilliant Venus makes up for the others. The "Evening Star", as we can currently refer to it, is visible low down (around 10° high) close to the west throughout July although it begins to lose height later in the month. It's best to look 30 to 45 minutes after sunset so around 10pm at the start and 9:30pm at the end of the month.

Jupiter is in conjunction with the Sun at the end of July which means from our viewpoint the planet lies behind the Sun. Mars and Saturn have moved to become early morning objects but it will be late August before Saturn is far enough from the Sun to be seen in the evenings. For Mars it will be mid-December before that is the case and we can observe it at a sociable hour.

Of course, we know that planets are not the sole preserve of our own solar system and that many have already been found around other stars in our galaxy, the Milky Way. In fact, according to NASA, 6,291 exoplanets (that means planets outside our solar system) have so far been discovered orbiting around 4,709 stars

which indicates that some stars have been found to have more than one exoplanet in orbit around them. This should be no surprise to us as we know our star (the Sun) has eight planets in its family as well as many other smaller bodies.

There are a number of methods that can be used to find these bodies but the vast majority of these have been found by what is known as the transit method. This works by measuring the amount of light that reaches us from the star being studied over a period of time. If an exoplanet passes in front of the star, a small proportion of that star's light is obscured from us for a period of time. If these dips in the light output are seen to occur regularly then that is an indication of an exoplanet in orbit and more detailed investigation can take place. In a number of cases, where a star has more than one exoplanet, then identifying what exactly is going on can be challenging.

However, this method will only work when the exoplanet passes exactly between an observer on Earth and the star in question i.e. it transits. In other words, it is a line-of-sight effect which requires the Earth to lie in the plane of rotation of the exoplanet so, effectively, the three bodies must be in a line for this method to work.

Of course, there must be large numbers of exoplanets whose orbits don't allow us to see them in transit across the face of their parent star so that other methods need to be used. The next most successful way of doing this is called the Radial Velocity Method. It isn't strictly true to say that a planet orbits a star. What actually happens is that the two bodies are orbiting their common centre of gravity which causes a very minor "wobble" in the star's position, the effects of which we can detect.

**Brian Mills FRAS**

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

Since medieval times, Tonbridge has been a place where people came together to trade, exchange goods and manage their affairs. The town's position on the River Medway and its historic market made it a natural hub for local commerce.

Our village relies on Tonbridge being economically active, as our local town. The stronger the town, the more people are attracted to enjoy the countryside around it, where we choose to live.

Village banks are, sadly, a thing of the past. But banking facilities should remain in towns like Tonbridge. It is why I have campaigned so much for a Banking Hub in Tonbridge. It isn't just for the town, it is for us too.

You may have been to the Banking Hub at Tonbridge Castle, but that's only temporary. A new hub is on its way to Tonbridge High Street. This will be a place where we all can access the services

we need, regardless of how we choose to manage our money.

The new Banking Hub will be in the former Wimpy building, on the corner of the High Street and the Pavilion Shopping Centre - next to Finch House. It should open later this summer after refurbishment work has finished.

For members of our community who find online banking confusing, this is a much-needed addition to the town.

I'm looking forward to seeing it open and well used by our community.

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***

## **Beware of Courier Fraud: Stop, Think, and Protect Yourself**

Police are warning residents about a sharp rise in courier fraud, particularly involving scammers who impersonate police officers or bank staff. In these sophisticated scams, victims receive urgent phone calls claiming their bank cards have been compromised, a relative is in custody, or they must assist in a secret investigation. The fraudsters pressure victims into withdrawing large sums of cash, buying foreign currency or jewellery, and handing these valuables over to a courier who arrives at their door. Remember: the police and your bank will never ask for your PIN, demand that you withdraw cash, or send a courier to collect your money or cards.

To stay safe, always practise the ABC rule: Assume nothing, Believe no one, and Confirm everything. If you receive a suspicious call, hang up immediately. Wait a few minutes or use a different phone to ensure the line is clear, then verify the caller's identity by dialing 101 for the police or 159 for your bank. Never hand over cash or cards to anyone at your door, and never transfer money to a "safe account." If you suspect you have been targeted, report it immediately to your bank and through the official Action Fraud channels.

# 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 Embankment Scheme

Volker Stevin (The Civil Engineering company overseeing the Hildenborough Embankment Scheme) kindly invited Hildenborough Parish Council to attend a site visit of the Hildenborough Embankment Scheme, which is due to be completed and returned to the Environment Agency in July 2026. During the visit, Volker Stevin provided a guided tour of the site along with an information sheet detailing the works carried out. The information sheet is now available to read on the Parish Council website under the News section.

### How the Hildenborough scheme works

#### In normal conditions:

- The penstock gate across the Hawden Stream will be open.
- Water will flow within the Hawden Stream channel as usual.

#### In flood conditions:

- When downstream water level rises, the penstock gate will automatically close to prevent the water from the River Medway flowing upstream into Hildenborough.
- As the water level on the upstream side rises, the pumps will start to automatically pump the water over the embankment into the downstream floodplain.
- Our modelling shows that no homes are at greater risk of internal flooding with the Hildenborough embankment in place.



Above: Indicative design of the Hildenborough scheme

## Traffic Collisions

Hildenborough Parish Council wishes to help KCC collect data for minor road traffic collisions.

When a road traffic collision results in injury, Kent Police are required to attend and record detailed information, which is then passed to Kent County Council (KCC) to help identify and address recurring patterns of serious collisions. For damage-only collisions, however, there is no obligation to report, meaning some incidents may not be captured in the official KCC dataset – even in cases where police have attended.

As a Parish Council, we recognise the value of recording these incidents locally. Any minor traffic collision data submitted to Hildenborough Parish Council will be passed on to KCC to support future road safety interventions in our area. A form is available on the Parish Council website, or alternatively please contact the Parish Clerk who will be happy to assist.

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Hildenborough Parish Council

**REPORT A MINOR  
COLLISION TODAY**



SCAN THE QR CODE  
OR CLICK THE LINK



## 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.

[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.

**Evening WI:** For our June meeting we had a guest speaker, Richard Winston, who came along to talk to us about photography.

Richard trained as a secondary school teacher, teaching languages, when in 1984, a bird flew into his classroom and a pupil knew the name of the bird, and he didn't! This was the start of his journey into photography and learning about birds initially in Britain but later on, after he retired from teaching, across the world.

In 2007, he started travelling to different areas of the world with his wife and has had the privilege of taking pictures of not only some amazing birds but also some fantastic animals, including the big five during safaris in Africa.

During Richard's talk, he showed us pictures of a range of different birds and asked us a few questions about some of our native birds. It was really interesting to know how many species there are of birds such as starlings and pigeons, and how much they vary in colour in different parts of the world.

Following Richard's talk and members asking questions we stopped for some refreshments and a chance for a catch up before we started the more formal part of our meeting.

As usual the secretary and treasurer were able to give everyone an update of information they have received and our finances. This is the start of the new programme of events which we also shared with all members.

Before the meeting ended we had a quick chat about some ideas for our birthday meeting next month.

Our next meeting is **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2026** when we will be holding our Birthday party.

Hildenborough 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 drop in and say hello.

**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***



**Vehicle thefts across the district** - Police are warning residents about a recent rise in daytime burglaries across the district, where thieves are entering homes through unlocked doors—often while occupants are at home but distracted—specifically to steal car keys and take vehicles from driveways. To protect your property, authorities advise keeping all external doors locked even when you are home, storing car keys completely out of sight and away from entry points, and considering a steering wheel lock or Faraday pouch for keyless vehicles. Please remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity in your neighborhood to Kent Police by calling 101, or 999 in an emergency.

## Wordsearch clues & answers

It was 250 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1776, that the US Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Second Continental Congress. The original signed parchment still exists, behind bullet-proof glass at the National Archives in Washington.

An original draft of the Declaration was made by Thomas Jefferson and was amended by Benjamin Franklin and John Adams. It runs for only 1,320 words. The Declaration included the phrase: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

July  
Fourth  
Declaration  
Independence  
Second

Continental  
Congress  
Washington  
Draft  
Thomas

Jefferson  
Benjamin  
Franklin  
John  
Adams

Truths  
Created  
Equal  
Creator  
Inalienable

Rights  
Life  
Liberty  
Pursuit  
Happiness



## Sudoku - easy and medium puzzles

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

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





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## 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](mailto:hildenboroughbeavers8thtonbridgescouts@hotmail.com)  
[hildenboroughwolfcubs@gmail.com](mailto:hildenboroughwolfcubs@gmail.com)  
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Brownies

Sharon Roberts - **07960 782 178**

[hildenbrownies@outlook.com](mailto:hildenbrownies@outlook.com)

Hildenborough Amateur Dramatics

Rich Lake - **07579 210 122**

Hildenborough Conservation Group

Mrs Lynne Flower **01732 355 080**

Hildenborough Farmers' Market

[managerhildenboroughfm@gmail.com](mailto:managerhildenboroughfm@gmail.com)

Hildenborough Gardeners' Society

David Haugh **01732 832 869**

Hildenborough History Society

Tracy [hildenboroughhistorysociety@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hildenboroughhistorysociety@yahoo.co.uk)

Village Preservation Society

David Vanns **01732 835 289**

Hildenborough Litter Pickers

Emily Simons **07715 113 899**

Hildenborough Parish Council

Louise Jenner **07818 329 029**

Hildenborough CofE Primary School

[www.hildenborough.kent.sch.uk](http://www.hildenborough.kent.sch.uk) - **01732 833 394**

Stocks Green Primary School

[www.stocksgreenprimary.co.uk](http://www.stocksgreenprimary.co.uk) - **01732 832 758**

Stocks Green Pre-School

[www.stocksgreenpreschool.co.uk](http://www.stocksgreenpreschool.co.uk) - **01732 834 115**

Oaks Nursery

[www.oaksnursery.org.uk](http://www.oaksnursery.org.uk) - **01732 834 401**

Village Hall Bookings

Hilary Macnamara - **07598 927 953**

West Kent Concert Band

[wkcb@muzodo.com](mailto:wkcb@muzodo.com)

Floodline

**0345 988 1188**

Southern Water (spillage reporting)

**0800 952 1001**

Hildenborough Speedwatch

[jonathan.ashton.bidwriting@gmail.com](mailto:jonathan.ashton.bidwriting@gmail.com)

**KENT POLICE (Non-emergency calls) 101**

## Hildenborough Sports

Badminton

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Indoor (Short Mat) Bowls Club

David Chambers **01732 833 612**

Hildenborough Cricket Club

Barry Webb **01732 838 422**

Hildenborough Friendly Badminton Club

Ivan Kirkpatrick **07730 888 429**

Stoolball Club

Lauren Welch **07999 604 213**

Tennis Club (membership)

[www.hildenboroughtennis.co.uk](http://www.hildenboroughtennis.co.uk)

Hildenborough Road Races

[hildenroadrace@gmail.com](mailto:hildenroadrace@gmail.com)

Tonbridge Swimming Club

[chairman@tonbridgeswimmingclub.co.uk](mailto:chairman@tonbridgeswimmingclub.co.uk)

Tonbridge Bridge Club

Lionel Shields **01732 355 919**



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The increase, which has been backdated to April 2026, means that the rates for the 2026-27 tax year are now as follows:

| Kind of vehicle | Business miles | Pence per mile |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Car or van      | First 10,000   | 55p            |
| Car or van      | After 10,000   | 25p            |
| Motorcycle      | All            | 24p            |
| Cycle           | All            | 20p            |

Cars and vans include electric and hybrid cars and vans as well as those that run on petrol and diesel.

The rates mean that employers can reimburse their workers claims for business travel at these rates (or below) free of tax and national insurance.

These rates are also useful to self-employed individuals, as a deduction can be claimed based on their business mileage without needing to make any adjustment for private use. The business is just required to keep a mileage log of business journeys.

Note that a business can only use these rates if capital allowances have not been claimed on the vehicle, and the cost of the vehicle has not been claimed as a deduction under cash basis accounting.

If you would like any advice,  
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