



CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NEWS

KEYS

HILDENBOROUGH



September 2026
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From the Church



Standing at the Crossroads

September has always felt a little like a second New Year.

The summer holidays are coming to an end. Children return to school, clubs and activities begin again, diaries start filling up and, almost without noticing, we find ourselves returning to the familiar routines of everyday life.

But before everything gets busy again, perhaps September offers us an opportunity to stop.

There is an ancient line in the Bible that says:

“Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it.”

Jeremiah 6:16

Whether you are someone of faith or not, I think there is something wonderfully human about that picture.

Imagine arriving at a crossroads. Different roads stretch out ahead of you. Before choosing one, you stop and look. You consider where you have come from and, perhaps more importantly, where you are going.

Most of us don't get many opportunities to do that in life. We are usually too busy moving.

There are children to get to school, emails to answer, bills to pay, appointments to attend, people to care for and a seemingly endless collection of things requiring our attention. Modern life seems very good at keeping us occupied, but being busy isn't necessarily the same as going somewhere worthwhile.

The question we most commonly ask is, **“What do I need to do next?”**

But perhaps there is a deeper question:

“What kind of person am I becoming?”

Because, whether we realise it or not, we are all becoming someone.

The things we repeatedly give our attention to shape us. Our habits shape us. The people around us shape us. Our disappointments, successes, relationships and choices all leave their mark.

And sometimes it is worth asking whether the road we are travelling is actually taking us where we want to go.

Perhaps that is part of what those “ancient paths” are about. In a world where almost everything seems to be changing, some things don't become outdated.

Kindness still matters. Keeping your word still matters. Friendship matters. Forgiveness matters. Making time for people matters. Looking after our neighbours matters. Learning to listen matters.

Success and achievement have their place, but very few of us want to reach the end of our lives simply having been incredibly busy.

Perhaps there is also something important about becoming quiet enough occasionally to wonder whether there might be more to life than simply getting through another week.

For Christians, that question ultimately leads towards God and towards Jesus' invitation to discover a different way of living — a life shaped by love of God and love of neighbour.

But wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, September might be a good month to stand at the crossroads for a moment.

Before everything starts again, ask yourself:

What really matters to me?

What am I giving my life to?

What kind of person am I becoming?

And perhaps most importantly:

Is the road I'm travelling taking me towards the life I actually want to live?

Sometimes the wisest thing we can do before moving forward is simply to **stop, look and ask.**

Tim Saiet

WHO LET THE DADS OUT?

Wide range of kids play equipment

£3 per family; includes hot breakfast sandwich and refreshments

Next 3 Dates.
Sept 5th, Oct 3rd, Nov 7th

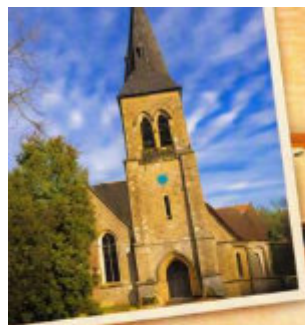
Meet other local Dads and have fun

9:30-11am

Church Centre, Foxbush TN11 9HT

For children aged 0-6

ST JOHN'S CHURCH
HILLENBOROUGH



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St John's is seeking a friendly, organised, and committed Administrator to support the day-to-day running of our busy and much-loved parish.

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ST JOHN'S CHURCH - Directory

Tel: 01732 833 596 Website: www.stjohnshildenborough.co.uk

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

Office Hours - Monday to Friday 10am till 4pm

Role	Name	Contact Details
Vicar	Rev Tim Saiet	07973 136 968 tim@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Children and Youths Pastor	Lisa Glasscote	lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Church Administrator	Vacant	01732 833 596 office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Church Volunteers		
Lay Readers	Trevor Long	07513 420 509
Warden	Vacant	01732 833 596 office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Treasurer	Rich Lake	07579 210 122 treasurer@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Safeguarding	Kate Lake	07579 821 956 safeguarding@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Church Centre Bookings	Cynthia Fawcus	01732 833 397 cynthia@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
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HIVE
HILdenborough VillagE



The Hive Youth Group

For school
year
6-13

£1 for this
session

Sunday 13th September
5-7pm

A visit from Animalia Encounters.
There will also be a pizza supper.



All youth leaders hold a valid DBS

For more information please contact



Lisa Glasscote



lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk



5-7pm at St John's Church Centre



Come along for fun, friends,
faith and food!





Forget-me-not Cafés



Companionship over a cuppa



At our August Café we welcomed a new volunteer to our team. Bryn

the Old English Sheepdog joined us and

was made a great fuss of. He was very well behaved and soon made himself at home among our patrons.



We had a lovely morning in the newly air-conditioned Family Room being entertained by the Merry Mondays who consist of 12 ukulele players. They sang songs that we could all join in with but also had a few surprises including the Rolling Stones "I can't get no satisfaction". They played a medley trying to get as many rock n roll songs into one and came up with Rockin' Robin, Blue Suede Shoes, Rock around the Clock, Hound Dog, Go Johnny Go and Oh Boy, which was great fun.



In last month's article I mentioned that the Forget-me-not Café charity had won two awards from the Sevenoaks District Community and Voluntary Making it Happen Awards, for the Volunteer Group of the Year Award and also the Older Persons Group/Project of the Year Award. Here is a photo of the Hildenborough Forget-me-not Café volunteers holding the trophies. I am very grateful to them all for making the Café happen.



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 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 FARMERS' MARKET



As I write we are halfway through the school summer holidays and at the

Farmers' Market

have been holding

free activities for

the children. They

have proved to be

fun and very

popular. So far we

have had Gary

Poleykett Science

Workshop, Arts by

Alex Workshop

(sadly no pictures)

where everyone

could paint fishes,

dinosaurs, flowers etc

and Card Craft by Annie Hawkins.

We still have a further two weeks where we will be

playing giant garden games and have face painting with

hook the duck what fun is that!



We look forward to seeing you on a Tuesday morning

between 8.30-11.00 am in the Hildenborough Village

Hall, Riding Lane. Not only is there plenty of shopping to do but also the Café for a

coffee, cake and a chat.



What a waste - tips for reducing food waste

I am more than slightly obsessive about food waste and reducing it, hence this piece and my volunteering at Hildenborough Community Larder. Reducing food waste means I save money, reduce emissions, feel good, improve food security and discover new recipes.

A guide to Use by and Best Before dates

Use By dates are there for safety reasons - and doing anything with food after its Use By date is potentially dangerous, and I like food too much to have a dicky tum.

The Best before means that within reason they are edible after the date and I can use them after first checking:

- A) Does it smell OK (if it smells off bin it)
- B) Does it look OK – any sign of mould (which means bacteria)
- C) Does it taste OK – I do this if it is OK to eat raw, if not I cook a sample to test.

If at all unsure put safety first.



What I try to do

I try to keep on top of what's in the fridge. If anything is on life support, I use it first, finding recipes with Google, AI chatbots, and my recipe site No-leftovers.com – other recipe sites are available.

For anything that I can't use straightaway I see if it can be frozen. Anything previously frozen shouldn't be refrozen unless it has been defrosted and cooked – such as frozen mince, defrosted and then cooked as a chilli.

My focus is less 'What do I fancy eating' and more 'What tasty meal will this make'.

I have a small food cupboard that is easily filled up with things I fancied but haven't found a use for. If I am unlikely to use unopened tins, packets, jars or bottles anytime soon I drop them off at donation boxes at the Church Centre or One Stop to keep the cupboard uncluttered.

As a gardener I share my surplus with friends, neighbours, help yourself boxes or food larders/banks.

Any fruit and veg that gets through the above is composted - if you can't or don't compost do you know someone who does.



Hildenborough Community Larder (every Tuesday at the Church Centre 11.30-1pm)



The larder is for everyone in Hildenborough and all are welcome – there is plenty of bread, fruit and veg to go around.

I help to run the Larder Brunch alongside the Larder when there are enough volunteers. We serve hot and cold drinks and where possible food, preferable using any Larder surplus. The WarmHub which ran during the colder months used Larder surplus for its homemade soups and puddings.

Fruit, veg, bread and bakery items are collected from local food shops and food charities like The Felix Project (formerly FareShare). Any non-perishables (e.g., tins, jars, packets, cans, bottles) come from donation boxes in One Stop and the Church Centre. Additionally chilled and frozen items come from supermarket collections and food charities. Donations from Larder visitors

(suggested £5 entrance fee) help to restock the Larder.

Any items that won't keep for next week's Larder are shared with the community opposite Stocks Green school and at Snippits and hopefully soon at the Church Centre itself.

Today's food tip

In this hot weather bananas quickly lose their yellowness. I peel and cut them into chunks to freeze for smoothies and milk shakes, or I stick them on a toothpick for a tasty and healthy Summer frozen treat.



Paul Thompson

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!

Tonbridge Banking Hub - new permanent location open

The banking hub is now open. They've taken over the Wimpy site near Boots on Tonbridge High Street. It's open 9-5 Monday through to Friday. Their community banker rota is as follows:

Monday - HSBC, Tuesday - NatWest, Wednesday - Barclays, Thursday - Santander, Friday - Lloyds, Halifax and Bank of Scotland.

<https://www.cashaccess.co.uk/hubs/tonbridge-kent/>

OAST THEATRE, TONBRIDGE OPEN MORNING – SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2026 10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

London Road, Tonbridge. TN10 3AN

Have you ever fancied going behind the scenes and finding out how a theatre operates? Are you looking for something new to do or acquiring new skills? Then come along to the beautiful Oast Theatre and see how a theatre works.

The theatre is run entirely by volunteers, and we are always looking for new people to come along and get involved. At the Open Morning you will get the chance to see how the Sound and Lighting Desks work, and if you are interested the technical people would be delighted to train you. Similarly, you might have DIY skills, in which case the Workshop team, who build all the sets, would be only too happy to show you round.

Sewing skills? Then a visit to our wonderful wardrobe with its thousands of costumes would be a must.

Other opportunities for getting involved are helping working behind the Bar, making interval coffees and teas and Front of House.

If you are not interested in perhaps volunteering, just come along and enjoy seeing behind the scenes. We can take you on a tour around the theatre and show you everything, including our Studio Theatre, Dressing Rooms, Props Store etc.

We are a very warm and welcoming Theatre with a great family atmosphere. Come along and see for yourself! Of course, we always need actors if you fancy treading the boards!

Tonbridge Lions Club - Tonbridge gears up for its 13th annual Dragon Boat Race

Tonbridge Lions Club invites the community to line the riverbanks, one of the highlights of the town's summer. From 9:00am to around 4:30pm, thirty teams will go head to head in brightly decorated dragon boats along a 200-metre course on the River Medway, in the heart of Tonbridge at Castle Walk and Baron's Walk.

Each team races at least three times, with the fastest boats battling it out in a Grand Final, followed by a trophy and medal ceremony. There is also a Best Dressed Team competition, so expect plenty of colour and costumes along the water.

Entry for spectators is completely free. Families are welcome to come along, cheer on the crews, enjoy the riverside stalls and soak up the atmosphere. Every penny raised on the day supports the Tonbridge Lions Club's charitable work in the local community.

All thirty team places for 2026 have already been snapped up, a sign of just how popular the event has become, so this year the focus is firmly on welcoming spectators to enjoy the spectacle. *"The Dragon Boat Race is one of the proudest days in our calendar, and it's become a real fixture for the town",* said Patricia Rocha Jordan, Race Director. *"It's a brilliant, free family day out, and the support from the community and our local businesses is what makes it possible. We'd love to see as many people as possible down by the river cheering the teams on".*

The event is run by Tonbridge Lions Club in partnership with Dragon Boat Events, a professional race operator who manages all the on-water activity. Members of the media are warmly invited to attend and cover the day.

Hospice Run for Hospice in the Weald - 20th September Lower Common Cricket Ground (Tunbridge Wells), TN1 1DT

Hospice in the Weald is celebrating 20 years of Hospice Run this year, and we want you to join us!

Over the years our wonderful community has come together in support of hospice care, raising vital funds for those who need us most. With your support, we can ensure this can continue.

Choose your challenge: 5k, 10k, Half Marathon - Whatever your ability, you can run, walk, or just come along on the day to cheer on our incredible runners.

For more information and to register for the event please visit the events section of our website <https://www.hospiceintheweald.org.uk/events/hospice-run-2026/>. Alternatively, you can contact our fundraising team on 01892 820533, or email fundraising@hospiceintheweald.org.uk

Hospice in the Weald provides support for the community in West Kent and East Sussex. All entry fees and funds raised help the Hospice in the Weald in its provision of care for people facing life limiting illness, and their loved ones.

Hildenborough Cricket Club

A three-wicket burst in the space of 13 balls only delayed Wrotham St George's recording a five-wicket win. Two batters dominated their reply before the innings suffered a slight blip with the game almost won. Mark Davies' 55 off 60 balls including 10 fours was Hildenborough's highlight, but once he went, wickets tumbled regularly on the way to being dismissed for 137.

Hosts Farningham sneaked home by one wicket with four balls to spare. They were indebted to their opening batter who carried his bat making 78. Simon Clark's four wickets accounted for the middle order, while Tom Collier claimed 3-20. Mark Davies (39) and Barry Webb (37) led the way in Hildenborough's total of 155-7.

Consistent batting by visitors Telston and Mereworth was the key to their six-wicket win. They lost an early wicket, but two knocks of 40 plus steadied the ship reaching their target of 149 with almost two overs in hand. Barry Webb's

unbeaten 50 - his second in two games - and Greg Smith's 44 featured as Hildenborough posted 148-7.

Seven fours and two sixes in an unbeaten 54 by Webb produced another important knock before retiring in the nine-run victory against stand-in opponents Southborough 2nds. The Tunbridge Wells villagers - who replaced original opponents Leigh, looked on course for victory at 144-3 - needing 179 to win. Paul Herbert's run-out followed by two wickets in two balls dragged Hildenborough back into the contest before Rob Owens (3-10) and Mark Davies in his only over, confirmed a nine-run win.

Sept fixtures:

Sept 6: Wateringbury (A)

Sept 13: Eynsford (A)

Sept 20: Brasted Invicta (H)

Sept 27: Hunton Wanderers (H)

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

Peter Wood

Hildenborough Tennis Club

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Hildenborough tennis club results

Men won 5, division 8A final against Shooters Hill 3 home 5th September, they will be promoted

Ladies 1 won 1 lost 3 some very close matches and will remain in division 6

Ladies 2 won 3 lost 2 will remain in division 9

Mixed won 3 lost 3 they were promoted last year and will remain in division 6

Midweek mixed vets won 2 lost 2 will remain in division 3

Well done and thank you to the team captains and players. We are always looking for new members so just pop down to the courts and chat to members or look at our website.

Siân Todd

Join us for

Parkinson's Table Tennis, Hildenborough

**A friendly and fun session on Mondays from 2-3pm
at St John's Church Centre, 194 Tonbridge Road,
Hildenborough, Tonbridge, TN11 9HR.**

For more information and to book a place, contact
Paul: 07977 490917/paul@hildenborough.com
Starts on Monday 14 September 2026
£3 per person



Parkinson's UK is the operating name of the Parkinson's Disease Society of the United Kingdom. A registered charity in England and Wales (258197) and in Scotland (SC037554).



The Night Sky in Hildenborough – September

I hope some of you were able to safely observe the solar eclipse last month as well as the lunar one (despite the unsocial hour) and even maybe a few meteors from the Perseid shower.

If you missed the eclipse of the Sun and would like to see one first hand, then there are two to look forward to next year. The first is on the 6th February and is an “annular” eclipse which is where a ring of the Sun remains visible even at mid-eclipse. This is caused by the Moon’s orbit around the Earth being an ellipse so sometimes the Moon is closer to us and sometimes further away. On this occasion the Moon is further away and so is not large enough to totally eclipse the Sun leaving a ring or “annulus” of sunlight visible around the dark body of the Moon. Hence the name “ring of fire” eclipse. These events are interesting to watch but don’t quite have the gravitas of a total eclipse because we don’t get to see the tenuous outer atmosphere of the Sun, the corona, because the ring of light leaves the sky far too bright. The track of annularity begins in the Pacific, passes over the south of South America, crosses the Atlantic and just makes landfall in Africa. None of this event is visible from the UK.

The second solar eclipse in 2027 is on the 2nd August and on this occasion it is total. The track of totality begins in the Atlantic, moves into the Mediterranean and crosses Tunisia, Egypt, the Red Sea and Yemen (to name but a few) before concluding in the Indian ocean. As an example, from Gibraltar, totality will last for 4 minutes and 28 seconds so weather permitting you will get to the partial phase up until totality, Bailey’s Beads (where sunlight shines through the last valleys at the Moon’s edge) and then the Diamond Ring which is the very last ray of sunlight shining through the very last lunar valley. Then comes totality when you see the corona, the Sun’s outer

atmosphere, for the first time. Then the above sequence repeats in reverse. Those of us at home in the UK will get to see a 42% partial eclipse.

On the 23rd September at 1:05am (BST), the Earth reaches the Autumnal Equinox when, very approximately it’s considered that we have equal amounts of day and night. The equinox, can be more correctly defined as the moment when the centre of the Sun is exactly over the Earth’s equator. On that day the Sun rises exactly in the east and sets exactly in the west. Incidentally, it is more correct to say that day and night, this year at least, are closest to being equal on the 25th.

The reasons that day and night are not of equal length on the day of the solstice is because atmospheric refraction allows us to see the Sun even when it ought to be just below the horizon at sunrise and sunset. So, when the Sun has *theoretically* set, the Earth’s atmosphere bends the light from it in the same way that a lens bends (or more properly) refracts the light passing through it.

If you’re about in the early mornings (around 5am), Jupiter is visible low down in the east at the beginning of September. By the end of the month, you can see it at 6am when it sits 30° above the eastern horizon.

In the evening sky Saturn is now making an appearance and rises in the east at 9pm on the 1st. By the middle of the month, at 10pm, it is 20° in altitude in the ESE and then on the last day of September, at the same time, it is nearly 30° high but a little closer to the south east by then. An almost full Moon is 8° to the north west of the ringed planet on the 26th and 10° to the north east the following day. As you are looking towards Saturn, west is to your right and east is left.

Brian Mills FRAS

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
- Foodrise <https://gleaning.foodrise.org.uk/about/>

Please get in touch regarding any of the above:

Becky Mackay, tonbridgeharvest@hotmail.com or 07876 026 058

T.M.B.C. News

New Unitary Council

Kent will be divided into 4 new unitary divisions. North, East, Mid and West. Tonbridge and Malling BC will sit in West Kent Unitary along with Maidstone, Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells Councils, this was option 4B. All these Councils will cease to exist on vesting day 1st April 2028 when the new unitary starts.

Hildenborough Parish Council will remain along with all other parish councils. The new unitary, will be responsible for its own services including, Education, Social Services, Planning, Highways, Libraries, emptying bins, Leisure Centre's and Housing Services, these have all got to be set up to start 1st April 2028, what could possibly go wrong?



Hildenborough East

Last month I wrote regarding the Tonbridge Town Council and the Tonbridge part of Hildenborough ward being given the name of Oast, (Residences from just before the Hilden Manor up to the Chestnut Care Home). However, for the Local Government Re-organisation these residences will be known as Hildenborough East. This is to allow Hildenborough East to be in the same ward as Cage Green and Angel due to proximity of their built areas and connection through the B245. This allows for the following warding arrangements;

Tonbridge North (Higham and Trench wards) Tonbridge Central (Cage Green and Angel wards and Hildenborough East), Tonbridge South (Judd and Vauxhall wards). Hildenborough (less Hildenborough East) will remain within Malling West. If you would like further reading on this please see General Purposes papers from the 12th August available via "meetings" on TMBC website or I can email you a copy.



KCC

KCC are the disposal authority and for 2024/2025 total kerbside collections disposal costs were £53million. Made up of Composting £4.5m (105kt) Recycled £1.2m (128kt) and Residual £47.1m (324kt). Disposal costs for Household Waste Recycling Centres totaled £7m, Composting £1m (19kt) Residual £6.8m (56kt) and on a positive note Recycled - £625k (39kt).

KCC would really like residual waste to reduce, after all it's not kitchen waste, glass or tins or plastic packaging. The yearly average waste disposed of by each person is 406.4kgs of which 239.6kgs is residual. Our local household waste sites are Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks, but at Allington and New Romney KCC have opened Reuse Shops where unwanted usable items donated by the public are quality tested, PA tested and put on shelves for purchase. Part of the profits go

to the KCC Chairman's charities, the remaining reinvested on reuse initiatives across the county.

Little Bridge

The smaller bridge by Tonbridge swimming pool has been removed, due to the supports failing. The bridge was originally temporary, when the swimming pool was constructed, but it stayed for a while and was most useful when the Cast Iron Bridge next to it was replaced. I think it has had about a twenty-year life, so for a temporary bridge, it's not done badly.

Water (Lack of)

Well it finally happened, after seeing residents in Tunbridge Wells lose their water supply, on Saturday 1st August our taps went from low pressure in the morning to no water at lunchtime. TMBC opened water stations for South East Water to distribute packs of bottles, 1 pack = 6 x 2l bottles at Tonbridge Farm Sportsground and Sovereign Way car park. Water allowance is 10L per person for the first 24 hours and 20L pp thereafter. The 15" diameter burst pipe was in Shipbourne Road a crack about 4m long. Repair teams responded very quickly, Shipbourne Road had to be closed, and work carried on day and night continuously, amazingly by Monday morning the water was back on. SEW reported it was a very deep and complex repair due to 2 high voltage cables very close to the broken pipe. Appreciation has to go to the repair crews; they did work

exceptionally well to re-supply after two days. Unfortunately, one week later another leak occurred at the Ridgeway and Shipbourne Road roundabout.

Banking Hub

The banking hub is a welcome addition to the High Street, unfortunately you cannot just walk in and ask for change as I discovered. The Banking Hub is in the High Street where the newly opened Wimpys used to be in The Pavilion. I presented a crisp £10 note and asked for it to be changed into two fivers, "sorry cannot do that, you will have to pay it into your account first", which is the same as putting your card into the machine and withdrawing £10 as two fivers, which I did. The reason they will not 'just exchange' notes, is that there must be a transaction event at the hub. So now you know.

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

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

Kath Barton

kath.barton@tmbc.gov.uk

Mark Rhodes 01732 914 166

mark.rhodes@tmbc.gov.uk

TMBC - 01732 844 522

Kent County Councillor

Harry Rayner 03000 421 606

harry.rayner@kent.gov.uk

Contact the Parish Council via

clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk

or by telephone (07818 329 029)

**Hildenborough PC, Riding Lane,
Hildenborough, TN11 9HY**

From our MP: Tom Tugendhat

We have enjoyed some wonderful summer weather over the past month, but the prolonged dry conditions have also brought serious challenges for communities across Tonbridge and the surrounding villages.

Low water levels in reservoirs have contributed to supply problems, with some residents experiencing shortages and, in the worst cases, losing their water supply altogether. I know how disruptive and worrying this has been for the households affected.

During the outages, I spent weekends speaking with South East Water and SES Water, helping to organise bottled water stations and joining the fantastic teams distributing supplies to residents. I am enormously grateful to everyone who stepped up to help neighbours and vulnerable members of our community.

There is no quick fix. I have been in constant contact with South East Water Chief Executive John Halsall, including

meeting him in Parliament and recently at Beech Reservoir in Mereworth, to press for action. We need greater resilience in our water network so that periods of hot, dry weather do not cause the disruption we have experienced this summer.

This also highlights a much wider issue. Our local infrastructure is already struggling to cope. Asking communities to accommodate significant new housing without first ensuring we have the water, roads, schools and health services to support it is simply unsustainable. That is why I continue to oppose the Government's housing targets and campaign to Halt the Houses which you can become a part of at www.haltthehouses.com.

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

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

Phone – 01732 441563

Social Media - @TomTugendhat

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

Tom Tugendhat



Cutbacks to the school budget had somewhat restricted after-school activities.



Village road safety – Riding Lane - beautiful but dangerous

Some aspects of Riding Lane have remained unaltered, in the main, since our family moved here from the Brookmead Estate in 1976. It is still mostly tree-lined and, apart from Hildenbrook Farm, created 30 years ago in place of Princess Christian Hospital, there have been only a handful of new homes built.

Our three boys attended the School and for five years from 1978 used to ride their bikes there morning and evening escorted by my wife, Anne, Lollypop lady at the time, as we had no car. The Lane was a fairly safe thoroughfare for all - walkers, runners, cyclists and horse riders.

Sadly, the conditions have changed, radically, for the worse and the decline is accelerating. We really worry that a serious incident of injury or death is becoming more likely, for several reasons, which are inter-connected.

The main problem is the irresponsible behaviour of some car drivers, often in larger vehicles than was the case in 1976. They drive too fast on a narrow carriageway that is flanked, in many places by a narrow weak verge before a ditch that, in places, can be four feet deep. Most days we witness cars approaching from opposite directions at up to 50 mph. Space to avoid disaster is VERY limited. We have had vehicles ending up in the ditch including an Oil Tanker 5 years or so ago. (Not the fault of the driver who, like most drivers of big vehicles is more aware and responsible in our view).

Walkers etc should be aware of the danger but MANY seem not be so. Very few wear "High Viz" which is always needed, some are online and/or have headphones. We lost a friend 5 - 10 years ago, father of 3 young boys, who was wiped out on a Sussex Road and we fear that something similar could happen here, to a greater or lesser extent, on any of our Village Lanes.

Please be aware, when you enjoy your recreation on our lanes and wear "High Viz" even if it is only an armband. Your exposure to danger is enhanced where our lovely tree canopy can reduce visibility for drivers at different times of the day, especially in bright sunlight where the change can be sudden

Pat Davies

Sudoku - easy and medium puzzles

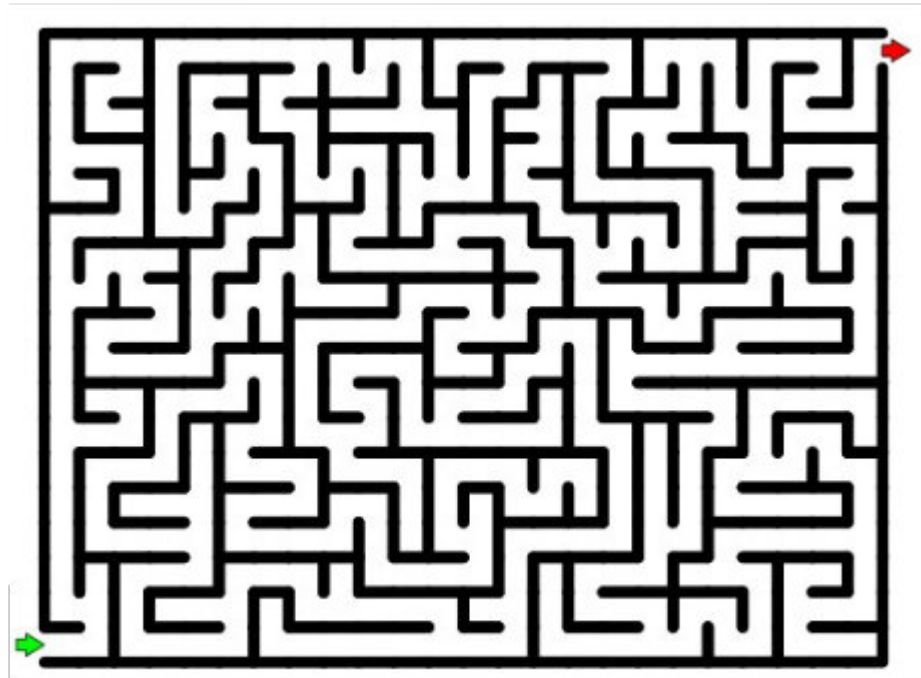
	3			4	8	9		2
		8		3			1	5
		5			7		8	
1	7	2	4				5	
4								8
	8				3	2	9	4
	5		8			6		
3	6			5		8		
8		4	3	7			2	

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

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Maze - can you find your way through?



The tale of the Lost Sheep



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ALL ABOUT A GOOD SHEPHERD.



WHO TOOK GREAT CARE OF ALL HIS SHEEP

THE SHEPHERD WOULD ALWAYS MAKE SURE EACH SHEEP WAS SAFE.



HE WOULD COUNT THEM AT THE END OF EVERY DAY

BUT ONE NIGHT HE REALIZED A SHEEP HAD GONE MISSING

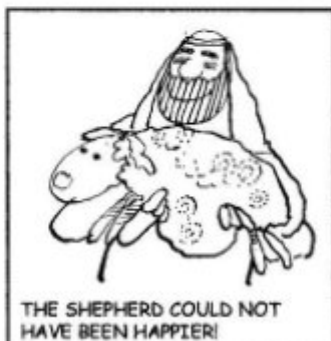


THE SHEPHERD SET OUT TO SEARCH FOR THE LOST SHEEP

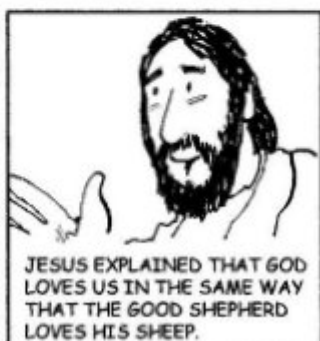
HE SEARCHED HIGH AND LOW



AT LAST THE LOST SHEEP WAS FOUND!



THE SHEPHERD COULD NOT HAVE BEEN HAPPIER!



JESUS EXPLAINED THAT GOD LOVES US IN THE SAME WAY THAT THE GOOD SHEPHERD LOVES HIS SHEEP.

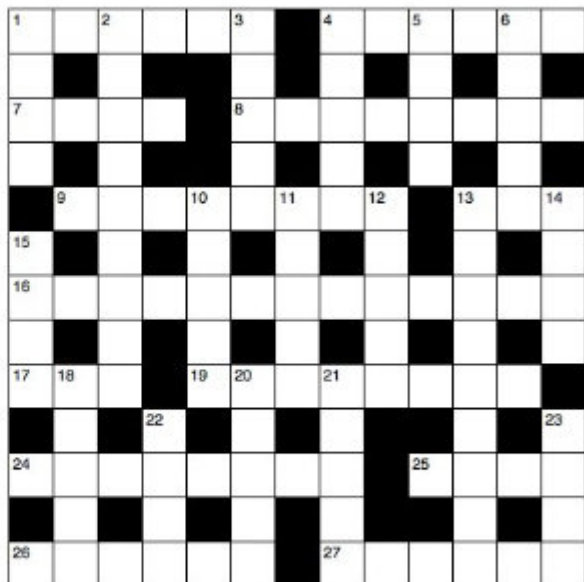
Crossword clues & answers

Across

- 1 'Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders — in vain' (Psalm 127:1) (6)
 4 Season of the year (Psalm 84:6) (6)
 7 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. — here and keep watch with me' (Matthew 26:38) (4)
 8 It came over the whole land from the sixth to the ninth hour on the first Good Friday (Luke 23:44) (8)
 9 Paul invariably did this in the synagogues he visited on his missionary journeys (Acts 17:2) (8)
 13 'It is God who works in you to will and to — according to his good purpose' (Philippians 2:13) (3)
 16 Members of the Church of Scotland (13)
 17 'Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountain side and — down' (Matthew 5:1) (3)
 19 Mock (Luke 14:29) (8)
 24 Disgrace (Psalm 44:13) (8)
 25 First month of the Hebrew calendar (Exodus 13:4) (4)
 26 Christianity of the Britons before Augustine arrived from Rome (6)
 27 Mean (Numbers 35:23) (6)

Down

- 1 'Whoever finds his life will — it' (Matthew 10:39) (4)
 2 'My lord the king, let the — — on me and on my father's family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt' (2 Samuel 14:9) (5,4)
 3 O raid (anag.) (5)
 4 'If two of you on earth — about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven' (Matthew 18:19) (5)
 5 Take care of (1 Samuel 17:15) (4)
 6 What the older son heard as he came near the house the day his prodigal brother came home (Luke 15:25) (5)
 10 'Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with — judgment' (Romans 12:3) (5)
 11 Do ten (anag.) (5)
 12 Architectural style first used in Greek temples in the sixth century BC (5)
 13 Capable of being used (1 Kings 7:36) (9)
 14 'Each one should — his own actions' (Galatians 6:4) (4)
 15 Among the items imported by Solomon's fleet of trading ships (1 Kings 10:22) (4)
 18 'But I am afraid that just — was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray' (2 Corinthians 11:3) (2,3)
 20 Outstanding 18th-century hymn writer, — Watts (5)
 21 One of the four sons of Asher (Genesis 46:17) (5)
 22 Be distressed (Proverbs 24:19) (4)
 23 He was the father of Gaal, who threatened rebellion against Abimelech (Judges 9:28) (4)



Wordsearch clues & answers

John the Baptist

Ever wonder why there is both good and evil allowed in this world? Jesus told a parable that touched on this subject – it is called the Parable of the Weeds. It runs like this: Consider the world as if it were a field where a Farmer has sown good seed. But then an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat. So, when the wheat came up, so did the weeds. What to do? Instead of destroying the weeds, and thereby risking the wheat, the Farmer tells his reapers to wait and let both wheat and weeds grow together until the harvest. At the harvest he will instruct the reapers to gather up the wheat, but to discard the weeds. So do not despair when evil seems to thrive in this world – there is a reckoning still to come, and justice will be done.

Kingdom

Heaven

Good

Seed

Field

Sleeping

Grain

Weeds

Enemy

Servants

Master

Sow

Gather

Reap

Root

Let

Grow

Together

Harvest

Bundles

Barn

Burned

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

September 2026 walks – explore with us



Bourne Valley – 20 September walk

Join our vibrant and welcoming group, proudly part of the national Ramblers walking charity.

Non-members are welcome to try up to three free 'taster' walks with us. If you're new to our walks, please contact the walk leader to check that the walk will suit you.

For full details of all our future walks, see **Tonbridge & Malling Ramblers on Facebook** or www.tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk.

Thursday 3 September	Kent's Hidden Valleys - step back in time with a ramble from Penshurst through the secret valleys of the Medway and Eden rivers. Moderate difficulty; a few short inclines and a few stiles.	5.5 miles
Sunday 6 September	A leisurely walk from Tudeley Hale across fields to Hartlake Bridge where we join the River Medway tow path to Tonbridge, passing Porter's Lock and Eldridge's Lock. Return via The Postern along quiet lanes and through orchards. Mostly flat; no stiles.	6 miles
Thursday 10 September	Coldrum Trail from Trosley Country Park - circular walk along the North Downs Way and across the Pilgrims Way, passing Coldrum Long Barrow, an early Neolithic burial site from around 4000 BC. One steep climb; set of downward steep steps; moderate difficulty.	6.2 miles
Sunday 13 September	Godden Green circular walk from the Bucks Head pub through woods, fields and quiet lanes. Moderate difficulty; six stiles.	4 miles
Thursday 17 September	Circular walk from Kemsing up onto the North Downs with great views south across the Weald. Tackle a rewarding ridge climb before tucking away into shaded woods with early autumn colours. Moderate difficulty.	5.5 miles
Sunday 20 September	Plaxtol Circular - steady climb up to Yopps Green for panoramic views across the Bourne Valley. The route then winds through quiet country lanes, rolling fields and the hamlet of Dunks Green. Moderate difficulty.	5.5 miles
Sunday 27 September	Circular walk from West Peckham along the Greensand Way towards Roughway. We pass Old Soar Manor on the way to the Wealdway and Hurst Wood, and return via Peckham Hurst. Mix of bridleways, footpaths, orchards, woods and quiet lanes. Moderate difficulty.	5.4 miles
Walks usually start mid-morning. There's a short half-way break (bring refreshments) and we usually finish near a pub. Most walks are dog-friendly (see website).		



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Local Directory

Church Contacts

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

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

Community Groups

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

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

Brownies
Hildenborough Amateur Dramatics
Hildenborough Conservation Group
Hildenborough Farmers' Market
Hildenborough Gardeners' Society

Sharon Roberts - **07960 782 178**

hildenbrownies@outlook.com

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**

www.hildenborough.kent.sch.uk - 01732 833 394

www.stocksgreenprimary.co.uk - 01732 832 758

www.stocksgreenpreschool.co.uk - 01732 834 115

www.oaksnursery.org.uk - 01732 834 401

Hilary Macnamara - **07598 927 953**

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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

Hildenborough Road Races

hildenroadrace@gmail.com

Tonbridge Swimming Club

chairman@tonbridgeswimmingclub.co.uk

Tonbridge Bridge Club

Lionel Shields **01732 355 919**

Hilden Park

Chartered Accountants



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.

If you would like any advice,
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