



CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NEWS

KEYS

HILDENBOROUGH

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October 2026

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From the Church



You Don't Have to Have Everything Sorted

Have you ever looked at someone else and thought, *They seem*

to have life sorted?

Their family looks happy. Their career is going well. Their house is tidy. Their children appear remarkably well behaved. Even their holiday photographs look amazing.

The trouble is, we usually compare the inside of our lives with the outside of someone else's. We know our own worries, disappointments, arguments, financial pressures, sleepless nights and insecurities. But we often see only the edited version of everybody else.

And increasingly, we live in a world of edited lives. I have caught myself doing it too.

Social media allows us to show the meal without the washing-up, the holiday without the airport argument, the smiling family photograph without what happened ten minutes beforehand. We can easily begin to believe that everyone else is coping better than we are.

But perhaps one of the most liberating things we can discover is this:

You don't have to have everything sorted.

Christianity has sometimes been presented as though church is a gathering of people who have got life together. But when you read the Bible, you discover something quite different. Its pages are filled with complicated people.

Moses doubted himself. David betrayed a friend and tried to cover it up. Elijah became exhausted and wanted to give up. Peter promised Jesus he would never abandon him and then denied even knowing him.

These weren't perfect people. They were people whom God met in the middle of their very imperfect lives.

That is what Christians mean when we talk about grace. Grace means that God does not wait for us to become the finished article before he loves us. We don't have to tidy ourselves up before approaching him.

Jesus once said:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28

Notice he didn't say, "Come to me when you've sorted yourself out."

He said, come as you are.

Perhaps somebody reading this needs to hear that. Maybe life isn't quite where you thought it would be. Perhaps your marriage is difficult, your children are struggling, work is uncertain, money is tight, your health worries you, or you're simply tired of pretending that everything is fine.

You are not required to have all the answers.

Sometimes faith begins with four very simple words: *"God, I need you."*

At St John's, we certainly aren't a community of people who have everything sorted. We are simply people learning together what it means to follow Jesus through the joys, mess, questions and uncertainties of ordinary life.

And perhaps that is exactly where grace begins.

Not when everything is sorted.

But when we finally realise it doesn't have to be.

Tim Saiet

ST JOHN'S CHURCH - Directory

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

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

Office Hours - Ad-hoc until a new administrator is appointed.

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
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Sunday services

9:15 - 10:30am - Contemporary service with breakfast served in the Church from 8:45am

Refreshments served between services in the Church Centre. All welcome.

11am - 12:15pm - Traditional service

Tuesday service

11:15am - 12pm Morning Prayer

Contact the office to receive Church News and Notices or follow us on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/stjohnshildenborough



Forget-me-not Cafés



Companionship over a cuppa



General Knowledge
Question 1: What is the surname of

Postman Pat? Old Time Dance Quiz
Question 1: What two dances are among the words used in radio communications and are part of the military phonetic alphabet ie Alpha, Bravo, Charlie? If you can answer these two questions correctly then you would have done well in the quiz that was hastily put together at our September café when our entertainment could not get to us. We had a fun morning with Elaine as our Quizmaster often doing impressions or actions to give us a clue to the answers.

We are very grateful to Claire Allen who has donated the Café a Brain Booster Pack of Usborne Books which included a variety of craft and painting books for our patrons to take home with them.



I know it seems a long way off and I daren't mention the C-word quite yet but make sure you have in your diary for Wednesday 9th December at 11.00 am the Dementia

Friendly Carol Service at St. John's Church, Hildenborough followed by refreshments in the Church Centre.

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: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.

Answer to quiz questions: Postman Pat's surname is Clifton (you learn something new every day, I even Googled it to check correct!). The two dances in the military phonetic alphabet are Tango and Foxtrot.

Julie Rhodes

WHO LET THE DADS OUT?



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and refreshments

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

Meet other
local Dads
and have fun

9:30-11am

Church Centre, Foxbush TN11 9HT

For children
aged 0-6



HIVE HILDENBOROUGH VILLAGE The Hive Youth Group

For school year
6-13
£1 for this
session

Sunday 11th October Circus Skills Workshop.

5-7pm at St John's Church
Centre

All youth leaders
hold a valid DBS

For more information please
contact
Lisa Glasscote
lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk

The Half Moon Pub

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Appeal for Information – Burglary on Leigh Road

Local officers are appealing for information following a burglary at a property on **Leigh Road, Hildenborough** on **24th August**.

The offender(s) gained access via the rear of the property, with the offence believed to have occurred at approximately **9:34pm**.

We are particularly keen to hear from anyone who may have seen anything suspicious in the **Westwood area**, as well as the rural area encompassed by **Stocks Green Road, Leigh Road and Noble Tree Road**, either on the evening of 24 August or in the days leading up to the offence.

We would especially like to hear from:

- Anyone who saw suspicious persons or vehicles in the area.
- Residents, businesses, or landowners with CCTV, doorbell cameras, dashcam footage, or other recording equipment covering roads, footpaths, or access routes within the area.
- Anyone with information that could assist our enquiries.

Even information that may seem insignificant could be valuable to our investigation.

If you have any information, CCTV footage, or believe you may have witnessed something relevant, please contact Kent Police quoting the location and date of the incident.

Thank you for your assistance and support.

PC Mead 14468
Kent Police Community Policing Team

HILDENBOROUGH FARMERS' MARKET

We are looking forward to October at the Hildenborough Farmers' Market as we have a couple of events planned:

Do you remember during the summer there was painting of different ornaments and pictures when Alex came to the market? Well, we are pleased to say that Art by Painting with Alex will be back for the October half term.



There is a lot to have a look at on a Tuesday morning during the Market and here are just a few of the goodies you can buy. We are open from 8.30-11.00 am at the Hildenborough Village Hall in Riding Lane. You can call it "Treat yourself Tuesday" – enjoy a refreshing drink and treat yourself from our fresh produce of fish, bread, fruit and

vegetables etc to craft, flowers and home-made cards. The list of stalls can be found on our Facebook page as there are so many more than mentioned here.



If you would like more information or would like a stall at the Market then please contact Nick, the Manager, on managerhildenboroughfm@gmail.com who can give you details.

We are also always looking for helpers setting up and taking down the Market. If this could be something you could help with please contact Nick.

October is the month of pumpkins so here's an easy recipe for

Pumpkin Soup

Ingredients

- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 carrots, peeled and chopped
- 2 garlic cloves
- 1 bay leaf
- 25g/1oz unsalted butter
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 medium pumpkin (prepared weight about 850g/1lb 14oz)
- deseeded roughly chopped
- 1 medium-sized floury potato, such as Maris Piper, roughly chopped
- 1 litre/1¾ pint vegetable or chicken stock, a little extra may be needed
- 100ml/3½ fl oz double cream
- 3 tbsp pumpkin seeds
- salt and freshly ground black pepper



Method

1. Put the onion, carrots, garlic, bay leaf, butter and half the olive oil into a large pan. Cook over a low-medium heat for about 10 minutes until the vegetables are tender but not coloured.

2. Add the pumpkin and potato, mix to combine and cook for a further 2-3 minutes. Pour in the stock, season with salt and pepper and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat to a gentle simmer, half cover the pan with a lid and continue to cook for about 40 minutes until the pumpkin is really tender when tested with the point of a knife.

3. Pick out the bay leaf and blend the soup until smooth using a stick blender.

4. Add the cream and a little more stock if the soup is on the thick side, taste for seasoning, adding more salt and pepper as required.

5. Meanwhile, heat the remaining tablespoon of oil in a frying pan over a medium heat. Add the pumpkin seeds and fry quickly until the seeds start to pop. Remove from the pan.

6. Ladle the soup into bowls and serve with a swirl of cream and the toasted pumpkin seeds.



From our MP: Tom Tugendhat

September often brings surprises and new beginnings. For me, that has meant taking on a new role as shadow Foreign Secretary. Working alongside Kemi Badenoch, the Leader of the Conservative Party, I will be helping shape our foreign policy, working to make Britain safer and more prosperous, and boosting our role in the world.

Iran have targeted our infrastructure at home, Russia has sailed unregistered ships through our waters and China intimidates dissidents in Britain. It is clear that events overseas can threaten our security, but those threats are not limited to conventional war. They also affect our food supplies, energy security and cybersecurity. Keeping our country safe requires Britain to stand up for its interests on the world stage.

After serving in uniform and in government, I want to see our country use

every skill and talent to make us stronger and happier. All that to defend what we love at home.

I will continue responding to residents' concerns, supporting local businesses, charities and community groups. From launching the new banking hub in Tonbridge to campaigning for speed-reduction measures on Shipbourne Road, we are working on local projects that continue to grow and better our area.

As always, I'm here to serve you. If you have a concern, suggestion or question, my contact 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

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!

MEET TONBRIDGE MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

Saturday 10 October | 9.00am – 12.00pm | Christ Church Centre, Tonbridge High Street

Interested in model railways? Drop by this informal open event to meet members of the Tonbridge Model Railway Club, discover how the club works, and learn more about the hobby. Everyone is welcome - come along for a chat!

DRACULA | THE OAST THEATRE, TONBRIDGE

10 – 17 October 2026 | 7.30pm (Sun Matinee 3.00pm) | Tickets £14

Kick off the new season with Bryony Lavery's modern adaptation of Bram Stoker's classic gothic horror. Reimagined for the 21st century, this production blends supernatural thrills with contemporary comedy and tech-savvy twists.

Book: www.oasttheatre.com | 0333 666 33 66 (booking fee applies)

Hildenborough Conservation Group: Westwood Coppicing

T&MBC has given the HCG permission to continue their coppicing in West Wood for the next five years. This will take place on the first four Saturdays in November (7th, 14th, 21st and 28th this year).

Editors note: Wikipedia defines coppicing as: Coppicing is the traditional method in woodland management of cutting down a tree to a stump, which in many species encourages new shoots to grow from the stump or roots, thus ultimately regrowing the tree.

We meet at 10am and finish around 4pm. Instruction on tool usage and coppicing techniques will be given by experienced group members. Children under 16 years must be accompanied and supervised by a parent or guardian.

Sausages are cooked over the fire embers at lunchtime so bring some and rolls if you wish to partake.

You will get mucky and smoky so sturdy footwear and old clothes are a must. If you use an inhaler, please remember to bring it with you.

Contact: Lynne Flower 01732 355 080

Hildenborough Gardeners' Society

Our coach outing to RHS Hyde Hall was enjoyed by those who went, and the weather stayed cool and just about dry. They had been able to water plants using their own lake, so the produce looked very good to we gardeners on a drought order. Due to the unhelpful weather conditions earlier in the year, we had to cancel our Autumn Show – a decision not taken lightly but needed.



On October 22nd, we are having an evening talk on the use of willow. This was given earlier in the year at Leigh and was well received. Our garden store is now closed for the winter and will reopen at the end of February. We shall have restocked it for the new year.

Our small organising committee needs new members to spread the load for events in 2027. Health issues and plain ageing have taken their toll, so some new “young blood” would be welcomed.

David Haugh

Angel Café at St John's Church Centre - updated opening times! - Term Time Only

Wednesday - 8.30-4.pm - Social café - no children's activities

Thursday - Soft Play - 8.30am - 4.30pm - softplay until 2pm

Friday - Play Area - 8.30am - 2pm - 10.15am story & rhyme time. 11am - 1pm Chatty Table

Hildenborough Historical Society quarterly meeting

Gary Martin – Commonwealth War Graves

Friday 16th October 7.15pm, Village Hall, All Welcome

Cost - free for members, £2 for visitors (or annual membership for £5)

A chance before Remembrance Day not to forget people from the village who took a Services role in defending freedom in the twentieth century, for many at the terrific cost of giving their lives.

Gary Martin is a volunteer speaker for the Commonwealth War Graves Foundation whose aim is to keep memories and legacies alive for us and future generations. Come and hear inspiring stories of the men and women who died whilst fighting in the two World Wars.

Gary's presentation will cover the history of the Foundation with examples from their worldwide work. Gary will be looking at memorials nearer to home in the UK, and the five Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstones in St John's Cemetery, Hildenborough.

Tony Atkinson, chairman atkinsontony@btinternet.com

Hildenborough Cricket Club

Hildenborough began the final month of the season with a 54-run victory over Penshurst 2nds. They also beat the weather, with drizzle falling while they were in the field. In a change of fixture for the second successive weekend, stands of 75 between Richard Sparks (76 not out) and Dougie Garshore and 54 between Sparks and Tim Walford saw Hildenborough total 202 for five. Simon Clark was the pick of the bowlers in Penshurst's reply - supported by two impressive runouts by Jean Pierre Martens and Paul Herbert who also claimed a catch apiece - the visitors finishing on 149-7.

Club stalwart Pete Wood opened the batting for the first time in 20-years in the six-wicket victory against Staplehurst. Barry Webb and JP Martens made 40s in a stand of 61 before both were out - Hildenborough reaching their target with nine overs to spare. Mark Skinner's three wickets backed up by good catching helped restrict Staplehurst with almost nine overs to spare.

Simon Clark's unbeaten 39 was top scorer as Hildenborough made only 102 on their way to a nine-wicket defeat to Watlington. The innings included five ducks as the Maidstone villagers needed only 61 balls to win.

Old rivals Kent Ramblas also won by the same margin the previous week. The West Wickham club's second wicket pair batted Hildenborough out of the game in a stand of 146 to reach 181-1 with 16 balls to spare. Tom Walford's 43 and 30's by Barry Webb and Richard Sparks led the scoring in the hosts total of 178. Two run-outs in successive balls by Greg Smith spiked Petts Wood's victory bid as Hildenborough won by five runs. Greg Smith and David White both hit 50s before retiring, and Richard Sparks made 38 in Hildenborough's 201 for six. It was always going to be a tight finish with Smith's accuracy making the difference at the end as the Orpington club finished on 196-7.

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

Peter Wood

The Night Sky in Hildenborough – October

If, for one reason or another, you are about in the early mornings, there are astronomical advantages to be had even if there are very few others.

From 4am until dawn the planets Jupiter and Mars are visible in the east whilst towards the west Saturn is soon to set. Early in October, Jupiter is in the ESE with an altitude of just over 30° at 6am with Mars just a little to the north west (up and right). Jupiter is easy to spot because it is the brightest object in that part of the sky. On the 5th, a waning crescent Moon is just north of Mars whilst the following night it is just north of the brilliant Jupiter.

If you are able, note the positions of Mars and Jupiter with respect to each other and you will realise that the distance between them is reducing. This is entirely due to the motion of Mars, it being closer to the Sun than Jupiter and consequently moving more quickly. Jupiter is, of course also moving but is actually moving away from Mars although very slowly. By the end of October, the two planets are much closer and by the middle of November the two will pass very close to each other.

In the expanse of sky that lies between the two "gas giants", (Jupiter and Saturn) we see the brilliant "winter" constellations. These include the hunter, Orion, and his retinue, some of which are bright but others of which are decidedly

inconspicuous. Arranged around him you'll find a large and small dog, some twins, a charioteer, a bull, a hare, a unicorn and finally a river. Now is not the best time to describe them in detail as a relatively small number of readers are likely to rise in the small hours just to gaze at the sky. With that in mind the diagram shows just the brightest stars (named in *italics*) and the most obvious constellations (named in *capitals*). It is drawn for 6am in mid-October.

As I said above, Saturn is also visible in the west as it prepares to set. This is because, during October, it rises in the very early evening and so has been visible throughout the evening and night. Actually, this month is the best time to

see Saturn during 2026 because it has reached the point in its orbit that astronomers call "opposition". This is where any planet that orbits beyond the Earth is at its closest to us so is best placed for observing. Opposition means it is opposite the Sun in the sky so, in effect, the three bodies, the Earth, Sun and the planet in question (Saturn in the current example) are all in a line with the Earth in the middle. This means that as the Sun sets on one horizon, Saturn is just rising on the opposite horizon after which it remains visible for the hours of darkness. Then as Saturn sets at dawn, the Sun will be rising.

Brian Mills FRAS



Would you like to be part of Keys?

Writing - The deadline for content is the 15th of the month.

I'm keen to hear from volunteers who'd like to take our volunteer interviews. These are great for giving insight into what volunteering really looks like and how rewarding it can be. I have some interviews out there but I'd love to run one each month.

Please drop me a line if you'd like to feature.

Rob Mansfield - Editor

The future of Hildenborough – our village

On September 12th, TMBC published (under direct Government direction) its new Local Plan for final comments, before the Government Inspectorate assesses it. This covers future house building in the borough for the next 15 years or so. Because Hildenborough has a station, it is seen as a favoured place to build housing, and the plan identifies some 1600 possible new dwellings of various types, to cram into the present village of around 1800 dwellings. This is a disproportionate number given the village's current size.

Despite the fact that Hildenborough station is inaccessible to disabled passengers on one side, the land around the station is earmarked for mass building. Whilst this alone will totally change the character of the village, there are no plans to improve the infrastructure – roads, schools, etc. Additionally, there are already limitations of water supply and sewerage disposal in the area – acknowledged by the utility companies, who have no immediate plans to improve matters.

The way that the Local Plan public consultation is structured makes it very difficult for the general public to understand how to make meaningful comments on the plan. Just saying “I don't like it” or “I will lose my views” or similar will be disregarded, and comments have to be focused on actual facts and legality. However, if residents feel strongly about the proposals, this is the last call for public comments and objections. Doing and saying nothing will produce exactly nothing, and Hildenborough will become just part of Tonbridge. Time is short – the consultation ends at the end of October.

Name and address withheld.

Vehicle Theft Prevention Advice

We have received reports of motor vehicles being stolen in the Tonbridge area. While enquiries are ongoing, we would like to remind residents to take a few simple steps to help reduce the risk of becoming a victim of vehicle crime.

- ✔ Always lock your vehicle, even if leaving it unattended for only a short time.
- ✔ Keep keys away from doors, windows and letterboxes. Consider using a signal-blocking pouch (Faraday pouch) for keyless vehicles.
- ✔ Ensure valuables are removed from view and not left inside your vehicle.
- ✔ Park in well-lit areas and, where possible, use secure garages or driveways.
- ✔ Consider installing additional security measures such as steering wheel locks, tracking devices or vehicle immobilisers.
- ✔ Check your vehicle has been locked, as some thieves may use technology to prevent keyless vehicles from locking properly.

If you witness suspicious activity around vehicles or believe a crime is in progress, please call **999**. For non-emergency information or to report suspicious behaviour, contact Kent Police on **101** or via our online reporting services.

Police Sergeant Atkinson



October 2026 group walks



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.

See **Tonbridge and Malling Ramblers** on Facebook or www.tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk.

River Darent at Shoreham – 11 October walk

Thursday 1 October	Circular walk from Birling Church to Holly Hill viewpoint and return via steep descent through Crookhorn Wood. Includes parts of the North Downs Way and Pilgrims Way. Moderate difficulty; two stiles.	6.2 miles
Sunday 4 October	Markbeech Meander - an undulating walk through woods and fields with views across the Weald. Moderate difficulty.	5 miles
Thursday 8 October	Circular walk around the Speldhurst countryside along part of the Wealdway towards Bullingstone and onwards to the River Medway and Poundsbridge. A few stiles and some climbs; moderate difficulty.	6 miles
Sunday 11 October	Shoreham to Lullingstone with a scenic climb to the ridge of the Darent Valley, offering far-reaching views and open skies as we head towards historic Lullingstone. Some steep uphill sections; moderate difficulty.	7 miles
Thursday 15 October	Circular walk from Harrietsham along the Pilgrims Way towards Ringlestone with wonderful views of the North Downs. Return through farmland and around the Ringlewood reservoirs. Moderate difficulty.	5.6 miles
Sunday 18 October	Brenchley Lakes and Orchards: leisurely circular walk towards the furnace ponds, a relic from the iron industry. Continue to Cryals Farm, past the fishing lake and more orchards and farmland.	5.3 miles
Thursday 22 October	Circular walk from Offham through woods and across fields to Offham Church, then onto Ryarsh Church. Return through West Malling Meadows and farm fields. Mostly flat with one stile; moderate difficulty.	5 miles
Sunday 25 October	Scenic walk from Chiddingstone Causeway towards Bough Beech Reservoir for some bird spotting. We usually catch sight of a variety of ducks, gulls and cormorants along the way. Moderate difficulty.	6 miles
Thursday 29 October	Leisurely circular walk along the Greensand Way from Linton church taking in the deer park, goat sanctuary and orchards. A few stiles and a short steep stretch towards the end.	6.6 miles

T.M.B.C. News

New Unitary Council.

Typical! I wrote a reasonably long piece about the forth coming new Unitary Council and the Government have gone and cancelled it. So that's that. (For now). The new Hildenborough East name (for residences from just before the Hilden Manor up to the Chestnut Care Home) is also put aside for now.

Elections 2027

Owing to the above cancellation in May 2027 there will be ordinary Borough Council elections.

Local Plan

Well at least this continues on its somewhat fraught path.

During the last extra full Council meeting, members discussed the Local Plan going forward to Regulation 19 (essentially saying, these plots of land are where development could be allowed), the decision was taken by members, not to proceed to Regulation 19, due to South East Water being unable to supply water to approximately 21,000 homes, they state they can only cope with about 7,000 future homes.

So, the recommendation to go forward was lost, supported by Conservative, Labour and Green Councillors, the Liberal Democrats wanted to proceed, one LD abstained. The next morning the Leader of the Council wrote to the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government, Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP explaining our rationale for not wanting to proceed without further dialogue with South East

Water. And in less than 24 hrs the Leader received a letter from the Minister of State for Housing and Planning, Rt Hon Matthew Pennycook MP, he has powers to intervene, and is directing the Council to 'Commence with the Regulation 19 consultation'. He requires the plan to be submitted for Ministerial examination by 31 December 2026. Amazingly though, in his penultimate paragraph, he offers the Council to provide 'exceptional circumstances' as to why the intervention is not appropriate. Now you would think that as the Leader of the Council has been in regular communication with Ministers/Government, supported by our MP, since the beginning of the year about the impending lack of water for the houses required, the message would have got through. Obviously not. Contact me if you would like to see said letters and please look at Local Plan details on TMBC website, where you will find all communication between TMBC and Ministers as well as maps indicating land proposed for development in Hildenborough and elsewhere.

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**

Evening WI: For our September meeting our guest speaker was Helen Stockton who gave us her talk "Borders in the Borders" - my gardening dogs. Helen talked about the three border terriers she has owned over the years, and the houses that her and her family have moved to with the dogs. She talked about her love of gardening, having come from a family of gardeners, some whom are professional.



Helen talked about the characters of the border terriers and shared some stories about them and how they adapted to the different gardens and the neighbours such as a large dog living next door. One of them was a long-term foster dog who she had started off looking after through the charity "The Cinnamon Trust" who walk, care and foster dogs (and other pets) for people who are elderly and terminally ill.

Helen gave us an interesting and entertaining talk, and it was lovely to hear about these wonderful pets.

Following the talk, we stopped to share some tasty cake and a cup of tea. We didn't meet in August, so it was an opportunity to catch up with everyone and share holiday news.

As always, the ladies all bought items for the community larder which we support each month.

Our next meeting is ***Tuesday 13th October 2026*** when we will be having our Harvest supper.

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

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

Lorna Stapley-President.

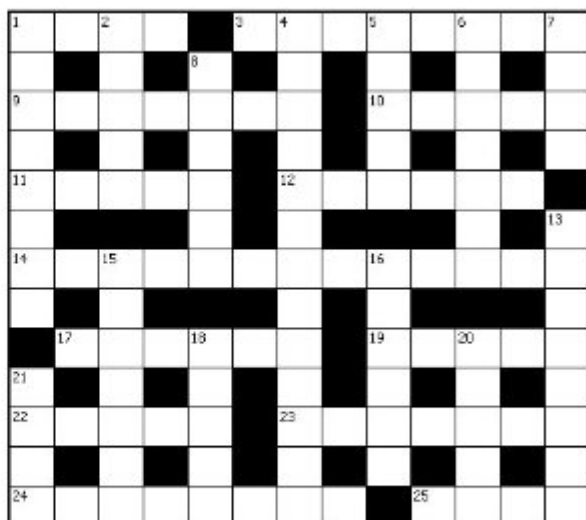
Crossword clues & answers

Across

- 1 'Those who were standing near Paul said, "You — to insult God's high priest?"' (Acts 23:4) (4)
 3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)
 9 'Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the — of —, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite' (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)
 10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)
 11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)
 12 Listen (anag.) (6)
 14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)
 17 He founded Westminster Abbey, — the Confessor (6)
 19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)
 22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)
 23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)
 24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)
 25 Note (anag.) (4)

Down

- 1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)
 2 'I — — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)
 4 'He took the ephod, the other — — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)
 5 'You are a chosen people, a — priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)
 6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4-5, 7) (7)
 7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)
 8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
 13 'Let the little — come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)
 15 'About three thousand were — — their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)
 16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)
 18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly — a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)
 20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us — his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)
 21 Young Men's Christian Association (1,1,1,1)



Wordsearch clues & answers

St Luke

To St Luke, whose feast-day is 18th October, we owe a beautifully written gospel as well as the Book of Acts. He was a Greek physician and faithful travelling companion to St Paul. Under house arrest near the end of his life Paul noted, 'only Luke is with me'. Luke's gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ, and offers us moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. Women figure more prominently in Luke's gospel than in any other: look out for the extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner. His gospel also features more poor people, more lepers, more 'sinners', who are all shown to be 'inside' the love of Christ. In Acts, Luke skilfully links sacred and profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. He tells of how the early Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.

Luke

Feast

Day

Written

Gospel

Acts

Greek

Physician

Travelling

Faithful

Paul

Compassion

Parables

Prodigal

Son

Good

Samaritan

Women

Poor

Lepers

Sinners

Jerusalem

Pagan

Rome

Early

Christians



Centre Piece

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

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

Postal Address: Pavilion and Recreation Ground, Riding Lane, TN11 9HY

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

September 2026

Local Plan: 1,604 new homes proposed for Hildenborough — have your say

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council's draft Local Plan for 2024–2042 is now going out for public consultation, proposing 1,604 new homes on six Green Belt sites in Hildenborough Parish. This is the "Regulation 19" stage — the final opportunity to comment before the plan is examined by a government-appointed Planning Inspector. Once adopted, the plan becomes the starting point for deciding planning applications across the borough, so what it says matters a great deal.

Key dates: Closing date for comments is 11.59pm Sunday 25th October 2026

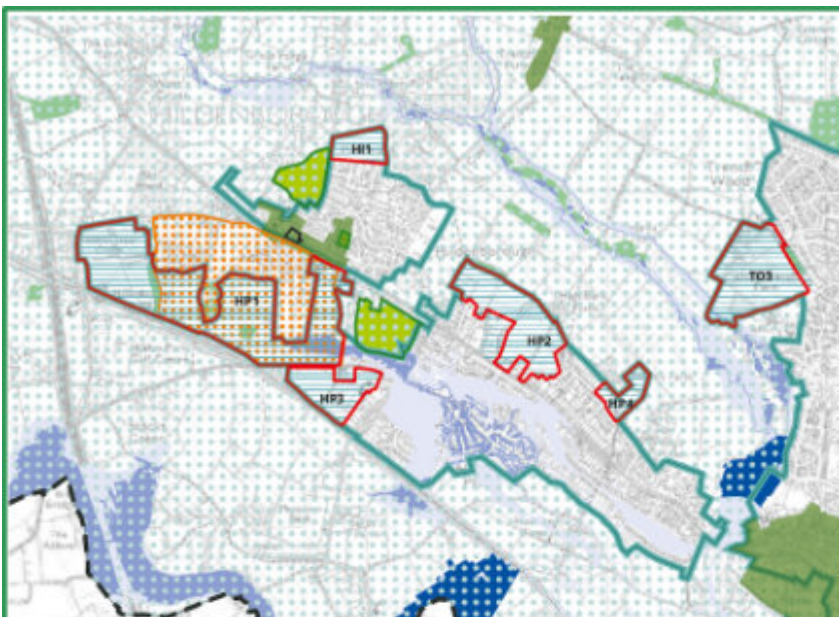
What the plan proposes for Hildenborough

Six sites, all on land to be released from the Green Belt:

Site	Location	Homes
HP1	Stocks Green Road / Tonbridge Road / Noble Tree Road	602
HP2	North-west of Hilden Park	290
HP3	South of Stocks Green Road	156
HP4	Hilden Farm Road	66
HI1	East of Riding Lane	96
TO3	Coblans Nursery & Little Trench Farm, Trench Road	394
Total		1,604

To put that in context:

- Hildenborough is classed as a Tier 3 "Primary Village" — the second-smallest category in the plan — yet is given more homes than the larger Snodland (1,336) and almost as many as Kings Hill (1,638).
- 906 of the homes appear in the plan's own tables under Tonbridge rather than Hildenborough, which understates the scale of change here. The Parish Council has checked all six sites against the definitive parish boundary, and all fall within Hildenborough.
- No school, GP surgery or community building is required on any of the six sites. The plan secures a school only where a single allocation reaches 1,300 homes; because Hildenborough's total is split across six sites, none qualifies.
- Around 800 of the homes would be affordable, as 50% affordable housing is required on Green Belt release sites.



How to respond — and how to make it count

Regulation 19 is not a vote on whether people want the development. The Planning Inspector considers two questions only: is the plan legally compliant, and is it "sound"? To count, your response should:

- use the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council's official representation form — comments made any other way risk not being counted;
- name the policy or paragraph it relates to (for example, Policy HP1);
- say which test the plan fails — whether it is positively prepared, justified by evidence, effective and deliverable, or consistent with national policy;
- set out the evidence, and state the precise change you are asking for;
- tick the box to be heard at the examination hearings if you may wish to speak — this right must be reserved now and generally cannot be added later;
- arrive before the deadline — late representations are not considered.

Where to find out more

- www.tmbc.gov.uk/local-plan — the plan, site allocations, evidence base, consultation dates and the official response form. For Hildenborough, see Policy HP1 (Chapter 14), the site criteria (Annex 16) and the Green Belt releases (Annex 3).
- **Paper copies** should be available to view at the TMBC offices and local libraries during the consultation period.
- www.hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk — the Parish Council will publish updates and documents here throughout the consultation.

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.

Contact Hildenborough Parish Council Parish Clerk at 07818 329 029 or email clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk. The Parish Council's green post box is located at the rear of the Pavilion Building on Riding Lane.

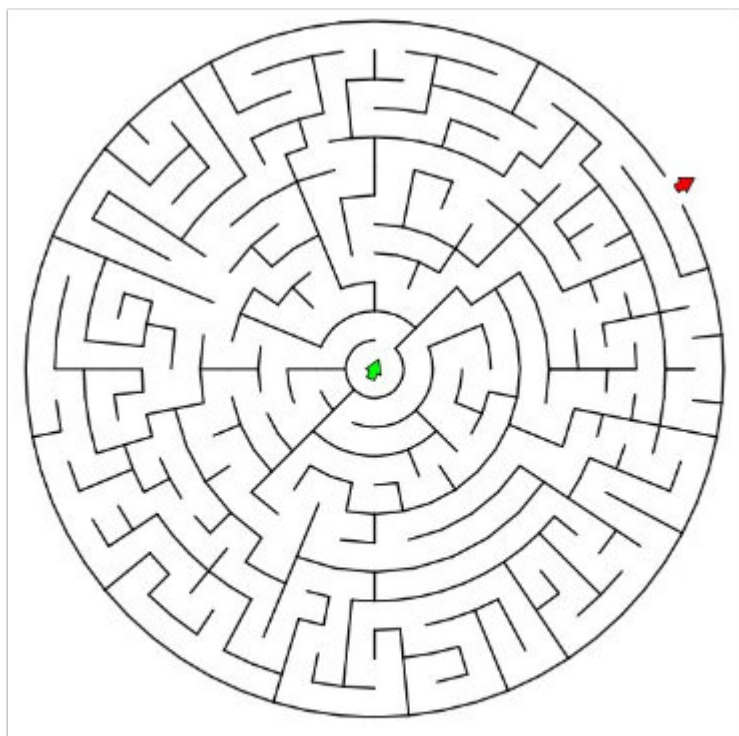
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4	8		7		9	5		6
6			3			9	2	
1					2	6	9	
		5				8		
	9	6	1					2
	2	8			5			9
5		1	2		6		8	7
		3		7				

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

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...if you have been affected by any of the issues raised in this sermon...



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07368 605762



INFO@PLAXTOLPEST.CO.UK
WWW.PLAXTOLPEST.CO.UK

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**

wkcb@muzodo.com

0345 988 1188

0800 952 1001

jonathan.ashton.bidwriting@gmail.com

Oaks Nursery

Village Hall Bookings

West Kent Concert Band

Floodline

Southern Water (spillage reporting)

Hildenborough Speedwatch

KENT POLICE (Non-emergency calls) 101

Hildenborough Sports

Badminton

Kathryn Stewart **07809 299 553**

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



HMRC CONTACTS THE SELF-EMPLOYED ABOUT NATIONAL INSURANCE GAPS

What should you do if you receive a letter?

HMRC is writing to some self-employed individuals whose National Insurance (NI) records may contain gaps that could affect their State Pension.

If you receive a letter, don't ignore it. In some cases, you may be able to boost your State Pension by making voluntary NI contributions for missing years going back as far as 2015-16.

The issue affects some people who were self-employed between

2015 and early 2024.

What should you do?

If HMRC contacts you, check:

- Your State Pension forecast.
- Your National Insurance record.
- Whether there are any missing years.
- Whether filling those gaps would increase your State Pension.

You can do this through your Personal Tax Account on GOV.UK.

Don't assume you need to pay

Receiving a letter does not

necessarily mean you have a problem. Many people already have enough qualifying years to receive the full State Pension, in which case paying extra NI would provide no benefit.

Why this matters

Normally, there is a time limit on paying voluntary NI contributions. However, HMRC's current exercise may allow affected individuals to fill gaps potentially dating back to 2015-16. For those who are affected, this could be a relatively low-cost way to increase their retirement income.

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

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